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SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT.
B O A R D
OF
I N D I A N
C O M M I S S I O N E R S

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SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

U. S. -

BOARD OF INDIAN COMMISSIONERS,

FOR

THE YEAR 1875.



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REPORT

OF

THE BOARD OF INDIAN COMMISSIONERS.

WASHINGTON, *January 1, 1876.*

SIR: During the past year there has been no organized act of hostility by any tribe or band of Indians, the most of them having remained quietly on their reservations, and having manifested a disposition to comply with the requirements of the Government. This is the more noteworthy, from the fact that two years ago all the bands of Sioux threatened to wage war upon any individuals or parties who might visit the Black Hills, and that the Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Kiowas, and Comanches, of the Indian Territory, and the Apaches, of Arizona, until within the last year were the terror of the white settlers, and in a condition bordering on hostility. The improvement in these respects, especially among the wilder tribes, is as conspicuous as it is gratifying, and denotes that the policy which has been pursued has been generally satisfactory to the Indians, and salutary in its influences upon them. The Sioux, relinquishing their threatening attitude, have permitted many parties to visit the Black Hills during the year without molestation, whether with or without military escort; and, for a consideration which until recently they would have scouted as totally inadequate, have voluntarily relinquished their right to hunt outside their reservation. The Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Kiowas, and Comanches, with the exception of a single party of the Cheyennes, have also remained peacefully upon their reservations, have sent their children to school, and have exhibited a decidedly accelerated progress in the pursuits and habits of civilized life, as well as a growing appreciation of and preparation for the privileges and duties of citizenship. In like manner the Apaches of Arizona have remained quietly upon their reservations, and have abstained from depredations, with the result that during the past year travel among them has been as safe as in any other Territory.

PROGRESS OF THE INDIANS.

An interesting illustration of the progress of the Indians in habits of industry, education, and religious and moral ideas, is furnished by the statistics bearing upon these and related subjects which have been collected by the board, and a random selection from them will afford a view of the comparative condition of the Indians in several years, and of the advance that has been made by them generally in intelligence and self-support. For instance: The Indians of the Central Superintendency in Kansas comprise portions of the Kickapoos, Pottawatomies, Kaws, Osages, Quapaws, Peorias, Ottawas, Wyandotts, Senecas, Sacs and Foxes, Absentee Shawnees, Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Wichitas, Kiowas, and Comanches, in all aggregating about 16,000. In 1868 these Indians had only 5 schools, with 105 pupils, and in 1875 there were 15

schools, with 836 pupils. In 1868 there were no Sabbath-schools among them; in 1875 there were 13. In 1868 they cultivated 3,220 acres, against 14,499 acres in 1875. In 1868 they raised 31,700 bushels of corn, 633 bushels of wheat, 750 tons of hay, and no oats so far as was reported. In 1875 they raised 320,500 bushels of corn, 28,032 bushels of wheat, 4,996 tons of hay, and 5,930 bushels of oats. Of potatoes and other vegetables they raised 8,770 bushels in 1868, against 29,102 bushels in 1875; and their horses and mules had increased from 17,924 to 25,921; their cattle from 640 to 6,580, and their hogs from 1,074 to 12,268 in the same period. Another exceedingly interesting fact, as indicating their emergence from savage and nomadic to civilized and settled life, is to be found in the circumstance, that while in 1868 there were no houses reported as *occupied and owned* by these Indians, in 1875 they owned and occupied 1,042.

Again, the Indians belonging to the Northern Superintendency consisting of the Santee Sioux, the Winnebago, Omaha, Pawnee, Otoe and Missouri, Iowa, and Sac and Fox of Missouri tribes, comprising nearly 7,000 souls, are all on reservations in Nebraska. The statistics show that these people have 7 industrial boarding-schools, in which over 250 boys and girls are trained to useful occupations and in the habits and pursuits of civilization, and 14 day-schools; the total number of children taught in all the schools being 480, and of those who are of suitable age, but not attending school, being 715. The Indians of these tribes are generally willing, many of them are anxious, that their children should have the benefits of school-education; and it is estimated that one-half of the children who do not avail themselves of it are prevented from doing so by their distance from the schools. Among these tribes there are also 8 Sabbath-schools in successful operation, in which Indians of all ages receive religious instruction. Beside the advancement in religious and intellectual culture to which these facts testify, there is also along with it, *pari passu*, a rapid progression in agricultural and manufacturing industries. In a fairly fruitful year four of the larger of these tribes are self-supporting to the extent that they raise agricultural and other products sufficient for their subsistence, and exhibit a pride in doing so. This is a great step toward their material prosperity; and their ability for increased production in the future, to the extent possibly of a surplus over and above their own wants, is augmented by the fact that their children are learning the agricultural methods of the whites, and are being trained in all the mechanical trades that are practiced or can be taught them at the six agencies connected with the superintendency, and are becoming good workmen. The people generally of at least three of these tribes live in houses, eat with knives and forks from dishes on tables, sit on chairs, sleep in beds on bedsteads, dress in the costume of the whites, and manifest a desire to adopt the habits of civilized life. The other tribes are more backward, but they are all making sensible progress toward civilization.

At the Sisseton agency, in Dakota, the number of Indians on the reservation is 1,807. Their educational progress has been satisfactory, and in some cases surprising. During the past year 4 district-schools have been maintained, and a manual-labor school. Out of the 1,800 Indians, some 800 read and write the Dakota or Sioux language, 100 read and write both English and Sioux; 115 children have attended school throughout the year, and 58 of them have learned to read; they have 4 churches, with native pastors, elders, and deacons, and 375 native members, of whom 150 are males and 225 females. They are at peace among themselves, and their relations with their surrounding white

neighbors have been cordial and friendly. Last year they harvested 4,000 bushels of wheat, 7,000 bushels of corn, 1,574 bushels of oats, 2,500 bushels of potatoes, 2,000 bushels of turnips, 50 bushels of onions, 150 bushels of beans, 4,500 tons of hay, and with the limited facilities at their command have broken and fenced 725 acres of new land, thereby doubling the area to be put in crops this spring. Their contentment, their disposition to labor and to save and acquire property, indicate an entire abandonment of the "old ways," and furnish substantial evidence of the susceptibility of the race under proper influences for civilization.

The 350 Flandreau Indians at the special agency in Dakota were probably the first to avail themselves of the inducements to civilization under the present Indian policy. In 1869 they threw up their tribal relations and took Indian homesteads. The Government has supplied stock and tools, but very little food or clothing has been given them; none since the first of last July. Their improvement has been marked. The men do the most of the farm-work, and they all cultivate separate tracts of land, their great object in taking homesteads being to secure permanent homes. At first there was considerable fear, and much opposition was manifested by their white neighbors, but by the uniform good conduct of the Indians this has been almost entirely overcome. The rapid improvement of these Indians, it is believed, has been largely owing to their religious training. There are few of them who are not members of the church, which they attend very regularly, and there are also few among them who cannot read and write their own language.

Of the 3,500 Indians at the Yakama Indian agency, Washington, 250 have been instructed to read and write, and most of that number have some knowledge of arithmetic and geography, and are able to do business understandingly. When Agent Wilbur began among them they lived on roots and fish, and there was not one acre of ground cultivated. Now they have 10,000 acres fenced and 4,000 under cultivation, from which they raised 30,000 bushels of grain last season, sufficient for the subsistence of the nation. Three-fourths of their number have adopted the habits and costume of civilization. They hold and cultivate their lands in severalty, although they have no legal title, and they have settled upon them, building permanent fences, good houses, and barns. They have teams, horses, wagons, harness, plows, and all kinds of tools suitable to make thrifty farmers. They have good church-edifices and 500 of them are church-members; their children that have been educated are capable mechanics in different departments; and it is believed that at the expiration of the treaty the Indians at this agency will be self-supporting.

These instances are not exceptional. The advancement of other tribes has been equally marked, and the evidence of it might be multiplied indefinitely, as may be seen by reference to the letters from missionaries, agents, and others, which are printed herewith. Undoubtedly the progress of the Indians in education, industry, and other kindred elements of civilization has been such as to encourage the philanthropist, and to fully justify the wisdom of the Government in the method which it has adopted of dealing with these helpless children of the forest. The information derived from these and other sources proves beyond question that the results of the present humane policy are highly satisfactory; and it is the opinion of this board that the peace and safety of our frontier settlements, the public economy, the welfare of the Indians, as well as the interests of morals and religion, demand a steady adherence to this policy until the Indians shall no longer need to be treated as a separate and peculiar race. We are also of the opinion that the facts which have

been cited, and the evidence to which we have referred, conclusively prove the capacity of the Indian for civilization, and the duties and privileges of citizenship. The patience and forbearance which they have often displayed would reflect honor upon any people, while the instances of their fidelity, loyalty, and magnanimity are by no means rare. They are now coming to have an abiding faith in the justice of the Government, and if this idea be deeply rooted in their minds, together with a feeling of confidence in the benevolence and friendly interest of the Government in their welfare, it will act as an important stimulus to their civilization, and be a weighty point gained.

THE POLICY OF JUSTICE.

It is the glory of the existing policy toward the Indian that it is founded on justice. Said Edmund Burke: "It is with the greatest difficulty that I attempt to separate *policy* from *justice*. Justice is itself *the great standing policy of civil society*, and any eminent departure from it, *under any circumstances*, lies under the suspicion of being no policy at all." In accordance with this enlightened *policy of justice*, it is the aim of the Government of the United States to reclaim the Indian from his rude, wild, and savage state by the kindly influence of just dealing; by an undeviating observance of good faith; by a firm, but kind and paternal rule over him; by protecting him from wrongs and aggressions; and by educating him and his children in letters, arts, manners, and religion. In order to the perfection of this policy and the completion of this aim, we must help the Indians to the acquisition of lands by sale or gift, to civilizing and permanent homes, to useful trades, wholesome laws, and the faculty of self-government, and in this way lead them up to citizenship, and absorb them, as we are absorbing men of all other races and lands and climes, into this great Christian nation. It is confidently believed that, if this enlarged and beneficent policy is persistently adhered to and systematically practiced, the civilization of the Indian may be accomplished at an early day, and that he will be converted from the condition of being a burden and an expense to that of being a contributor to the national prosperity, to its wealth and productiveness.

We have remarked that it is "the glory" of the Indian policy of our Government that "it is founded on justice." It should also be executed with justice. That it has not been so executed, and that for this reason the rescue of the Indian from his savage state has been made more difficult and perhaps indefinitely retarded, will appear from the following:

1. *The Mission Indians of Southern California.*—While the country occupied by these Indians was a part of Mexico, they had reached such a state of civilization as to be recognized as citizens, and they enjoyed such protection to person and property as that feeble government could give to any of its inhabitants. And when Mexico ceded California to this country, at the conclusion of the Mexican war, she was careful to secure from us, in the treaty that was negotiated, a *pledge to protect* these Indians in their persons and homes. It is needless to say that this pledge was binding upon the honor and good faith of the United States, and the more so because it was given by a powerful nation in the behalf of a helpless people who had been transferred to its care. Instead, however, of carrying out these pledges faithfully, the Government has caused the lands of the Mission Indians to be surveyed and opened to pre-emption and sale; and they have seen their property sold from under their feet. Our laws, instead of having been their protec-

tion, have been used to eject them and their children from their lands and homes, and to convert them into fugitives and vagabonds.

2. *The Pi-Ute Indians on Pyramid-Lake reservation, Nevada.*—Congress gave the Central Pacific Railroad, by its charter, not only a right of way, but also alternate sections of land, a mile square, for twenty miles in width on each side of its track, *without any reservation of the lands* already allotted to and for a long time occupied by these Indians, who saw this road come dashing through their territory, taking one-half of all the arable lands they had, which at best constituted only a narrow strip averaging a mile in width, along the banks of the Truckee River. And this, without asking their consent or tendering compensation to them.

3. *The Indians on Round Valley reservation, Northern California.*—By an act of Congress, of two years or more since, the lines of this reservation were suddenly changed, and 20,000 acres of beautiful arable land, worth \$25 an acre, were detached from the reservation and added to the "public lands," to be greedily appropriated, by the enterprising whites who had inspired this legislation, at \$1.25 an acre, while the wild mountain-lands that were added to the reservation by the same act, a miserably inadequate compensation at best, are still held and occupied as sheep-ranches by squatters whom the Government fails to eject.

These examples may suffice, though more might be cited to show that of the twenty or more Indian reservations on that coast, not a single one is safe. Not an Indian on all these reservations owns a foot of land in fee-simple; and not one, however much advanced in civilization, is secure in his home. He has "no certain dwelling-place," and this not so much by his own choice as by our perfidy. If he build houses and plant vineyards, he may not be allowed long to occupy the one or to gather the harvests for which he has toiled on the other. Envious eyes are upon all these reservations, and especially upon those which nature and art have made most valuable. A few lines, skillfully and perhaps furtively introduced into a legislative act at the close of a congressional session, have been the means of inflicting a wound on justice and humanity in the persons of these poor children of the forest for which atonement is difficult and perhaps impossible. It would seem as if we had conspired to prevent them from making any advances in civilization by taking away from them the opportunity to practice the pursuits and by robbing them of the rudimentary elements which are essential to it.

We call the Indians savages. But if they should show resentment at the treatment we have described, it would not necessarily prove that they possess a peculiarly savage nature or disposition. "Home is home, though ever so homely;" and if anything can justify indignant protest and even armed resistance, it is this sudden and ruthless ejection from scenes, however rude, which are surrounded by all the sweet endearments of home. But the Indians to whom we have referred make no resistance and show no malicious or organized resentments. We cannot assert that they "take joyfully the spoiling of their goods"—that were more than human; but we can assert with entire truthfulness that, notwithstanding all these provocations, under the general influences now exerted over them, there is peace, quiet, and a large degree of order on all these twenty reservations, while on some this condition of order and improvement exists in a remarkable measure.

To the Indians on some of these reservations the governmental appropriations are very small, (say from one to five dollars per year for each Indian,) and if, with the influences now exerted upon them, the Gov-

ernment will make their "local habitations" permanent, and encourage education and morality among them, they may all soon become self-supporting. To wean them from their wild and roving habits, a "certain dwelling-place," the sense of ownership over it, and the means of subsistence in it, must be offered them. We need not, we ought not, to convert them into paupers, looking for constantly renewed or permanent help. Our aid should be temporary, and of such a nature as will fit them for and encourage them in the habits of self-support. Their wants must not be long supplied from the public treasury, and, therefore, we must give them, or fit them to acquire for themselves, lands, houses, habits of industry, a knowledge of the useful arts, and education; and we must also inspire them with the confidence that our laws will protect both them and their children, and secure to them the fruits of their industry. On some of the reservations, as we have already shown, this confidence is slowly but surely growing; and wherever it exists the Indians are making steady progress toward self-support, and the manners, usages, and refinements of civilization.

COMMON SCHOOLS FOR INDIAN CHILDREN.

It is the opinion of this board, which is earnestly and respectfully presented to your attention, that, in order to the successful permanent establishment of the Indians in the conditions of self-support, and the habits of civilized life, *education* must be regarded as a fundamental and indispensable factor.

By universal consent, the Indians have come to be recognized as the "wards of the nation." There is substantial justice and equity in the appellation. But if they are "wards," this necessarily implies *guardianship*, and guardianship in such a relation also implies *care and culture* as well as protection and support.

For the latter, large sums of money are annually appropriated from the public treasury; and as long as the public can be assured that such appropriations are faithfully expended for their intended uses, no complaints need be anticipated against them. But unquestionably the very best kind of support that can be furnished is that which shall train them to habits of self-support and self-protection, which shall teach the brain to think instead of thinking for it, and the hand to work instead of working for it while it lies idle and helpless. And the questions arise, "How is this to be attained without the aid and advantage of an ordinary common-school education?" and "By whom should the means for such an education be provided, but by the Government which assumes the relation of guardianship?"

Already the great principle herein involved has been recognized by the Government, in the terms of the treaties with the Indians, especially those of more recent date; also by grants made in some instances for the support of teachers, the erection of school-houses, &c. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in his last report, (p. 120,) shows that there were at that date 10,500 Indian children in 329 schools, employing 418 teachers.

The importance of extending this educational system to all the Indian tribes, so as to afford to every child among them an opportunity to acquire a good common-school education, can hardly be overestimated. And this board earnestly urges upon Congress the adoption of the "common school system" as a part of the Indian policy of the Government—thus assuming toward the children of its "wards," who are doubly its wards by their youth and helplessness, precisely the relations

that are now assumed by the several States for their children. This is urged with a firm belief that it will prove to be not only practicable, but eminently safe, wise, economical, and effective; and on the following grounds:

First. That it is an act of simple justice and duty.

Second. Because the system proposed is one with which the country is already familiar, and in which it feels a just pride.

Third. Because such schools are necessary to Indian civilization, and demand their place at the foundation of good citizenship, as well as in its later superstructure.

Fourth. Because the same advantages may be expected from such schools among the Indians—measurably at first, but with increasing force as the work progresses—as result from the common schools in the States. A happy illustration of this is afforded in the experience of the schools at the Spotted Tail agency.

Such a work as that which is proposed would, of course, need to be placed under a most thorough and competent supervision, both in its inauguration and development. Inexpensive buildings or school-rooms, and school-books, together with carefully-selected teachers at moderate salaries, would have to be provided, which would involve a frugal expenditure of money, but under careful management it would demand a much smaller sum than is now required to maintain order by the presence of the military. Finally, it should ever be borne in mind, first, that Government *possesses the land*, from which a rich equivalent has been received, and in which a still richer equivalent resides; and, secondly, that the true policy in dealing with the Indian race, as with every other, for the purpose of elevating them to the social and moral conditions of Christian civilization, consists not so much in feeding or governing the *adults* as in educating the *children*.

SUPERVISION OF EXPENDITURES.

In accordance with the enactments of Congress, since its organization, the board has, as far as possible, through its purchasing committee, supervised the contracts and purchases made for the Indian Department; and, through its executive committee, it has examined all accounts and vouchers presented for payment. Its members, on the invitation of the Secretary of the Interior, have made frequent visits to the Indian country, and have participated in nearly every important negotiation with Indian tribes. They have also, by the direction of the board, each year visited as many of the agencies as the time within their control would permit, for the purpose of inspecting the conduct of agents and employes, and of gaining information generally as to the conduct and administration of the service. During the past year fewer visits have been made by the members of the board than heretofore; but more time and effort have been given than in any previous year, in connection with the purchase and delivery of goods and supplies, with the purpose of assuring the Department and the country of the purchase of reliable articles at the lowest attainable rates, and of the delivery at the respective agencies of the exact quality and quantity of the articles contracted for.

The report of the purchasing committee, which is hereto appended, makes a statement of their transactions in detail, and is of a character to arrest attention by its lucid exposure of the methods which have been resorted to for defrauding the Government, and by its recital of the means that were devised by the committee for their defeat. The board

especially invites attention to the recommendations of this committee, to which they give their unqualified indorsement and approval, as follows :

1. That stringent laws be enacted by Congress defining as misdemeanors all fraudulent bids and combinations intended to defraud or extort from the public, by contractors for supplies and others, and prescribing such penalties therefor as may be effective for their prevention or punishment.

2. That the necessary legislation be had to vest in the members of the board the power to administer oaths to inspectors of goods furnished, or proposed to be furnished, or both, by contract with the Indian Department.

3. That there be legislation making it the duty of the Indian Department to hold all contractors for supplies to a strict fulfillment of their contracts.

In addition, the board, as the result of their experience and observation, make the following recommendations :

1. That all beef supplies for the Indian service should be butchered and delivered to the Indians from the block, and that the present mode of delivery be peremptorily prohibited.

The abuses which are proposed to be reached and abated by this recommendation may be briefly stated as follows: The present method of issuing beef-cattle, as practiced at the Red Cloud and Spotted Tail agencies, is barbarous and revolting in the extreme ; and this board requested the late Secretary of the Interior to cause it to be abolished. The practice is, upon days of issue to let out the cattle from the Government corral, when they are made to pass between two files of Indians, who are on horseback and armed with guns and rifles. The Indians are then allowed to shoot at and chase the poor creatures until they fall wounded from repeated shots. The squaws and Indians then proceed to dress the carcasses of these animals in the most repulsive manner, after which the Indians take the hide to sell to the trader, and the squaws carry off the available meat, and also the entrails, for food. The whole process is shamefully barbarous and wasteful, and tends to keep alive the savage instincts of the Indian. It is entirely proper to buy beef on the hoof, as the custom now is, in order to have it convenient for use ; but it never should be issued except from the block. Each of these agencies has a butcher, who is paid \$900 per annum for his services ; there are also several employés at each agency, who have little to do, and are paid from \$40 to \$50 per month for their services ; besides these, any number of Indians may easily be had to assist in butchering decently and properly all the beef required.

2. The special commission to investigate the affairs of the Red Cloud agency, at the conclusion of their report, make several pertinent suggestions and recommendations, with certain of which this board fully coincides ; namely, that Agent Saville be removed ; that E. R. Threlkeld, of Kansas City, Missouri, be excluded from all further service as inspector ; that no bids for supplies be hereafter received from J. H. Martin ; that D. J. McCann be excluded from future contracts with the Government ; that the papers relating to the account presented by D. J. McCann for transportation of the property, stores, &c., of the Red Cloud agency from the old to the new location, be referred to the Department of Justice for examination and action ; that the distance from Cheyenne and from Sidney to the Red Cloud and Spotted Tail agencies be accurately ascertained by measurement, without unnecessary delay ; that a new and careful enumeration of the Sioux around the Red Cloud and Spotted Tail agencies be made, and that the agents

be required to make an enumeration of the northern Indians as they may come in for supplies, and to keep a record of all issues made to them; that a carefully-devised system of accounts, uniform for all agencies, be established, with the mode of issuing and accounting for all articles definitely described; and that the agencies, differing greatly, as they do, in the amount of intelligence and capacity required to conduct them, be so graded as to establish for the most important ones salaries sufficient to secure the services of thoroughly trained and competent men.

3. The recommendation of the Red Cloud investigating commission, being the one numbered 19 in their recommendations, to the effect "that suitable persons, possessed of the necessary legal qualifications, be appointed to prosecute for all wrongs against Indians, and to defend their rights and interests, as far as they may become the subject of adjudications before the courts," invites the following modification as the result of the experience of this board, namely, that the "suitable persons" referred to should be district attorneys holding office at the time, who ought not to be paid commissions, or fees, for the proposed services, by the Government, or out of funds belonging to the Indian tribes. We presume that the recommendation is intended to get rid of a class of claim-agents who make sharp bargains with untutored Indians, and defraud both them and the Government under pretense of righting their wrongs.

4. Respecting the ninth recommendation of the Red Cloud investigation commission, "that bids for flour and other produce be received at some suitable point in the West, instead of New York," we respectfully remark, that these articles are purchased in large quantities, and it is quite convenient for the bidders to come or send their bids by mail to New York, while it would be extremely inconvenient for Department officers and members of this board to travel to the West in order to meet contractors. We are persuaded that we insure greater competition among bidders, and avoid the danger of "straw-bidding," by receiving bids in New York; and one general letting of contracts is more advantageous to the Government than several special lettings would be. New York, Philadelphia, Passaic, Baltimore, Rochester, Chicago, Saint Paul, Sioux City, Omaha, Saint Louis, and Minneapolis each furnished a quota of supplies. Experience has shown us conclusively that the Government would lose by making special lettings of contracts for supplies and transportation apart from the general letting.

5. We observe, upon the eleventh recommendation of the Red Cloud investigating commission, advising the abolition of the office of superintendent of Indian agencies, and the transfer of the duties connected therewith to inspectors, that, as the result of our experience, considerable benefit has been derived from the services of superintendents in various ways; but that, in our judgment, no material benefit to the Government has been derived from the inspectors now in its service in the Department under our care.

6. The seventeenth recommendation, "that a commission of Army officers be appointed to consider the practicability of organizing an Indian soldiery for police and similar duty," we consider objectionable, as mixing civil and military functions unnecessarily. An Indian police under control of the agent might be useful.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The report of the executive committee of the board which is appended to this report, exhibits the principal work of the office of the board in

this city, namely, the examination of claims and accounts presented to the Department for payment, and of the cash disbursements of agents and other employes. The committee have examined 1,039 accounts, amounting to \$3,830,332.74, and have rejected claims amounting to \$370,209.38, giving their reasons in writing why such claims should not be paid. For a more specific statement of their work, attention is invited to their annexed report.

INVESTIGATIONS OF ALLEGED FRAUDS.

During the latter part of the winter and early spring of 1875, reports of fraudulent transactions in connection with the supplies furnished at the Red Cloud and Spotted Tail agencies, came to the knowledge of the members of this board, through the press and otherwise. Late in the month of April, the attention of the board, at its meeting in New York, was more specifically called to the statements of Prof. O. C. Marsh, containing allegations of the gravest character in respect to fraudulent practices and irregularities in the management of the Red Cloud agency. On the invitation of the board, Professor Marsh visited New York, and in an interview of considerable length gave in detail the circumstances on which his allegations were based.

The board immediately appointed a committee of its own members to proceed to the Red Cloud agency and fully investigate the matter; but after about two weeks, and before the committee had entered upon its work, the Secretary of the Interior addressed a letter to the chairman of the board, advising him that he (the Secretary) was desirous of appointing a commission from the members of the board, to investigate the reports put in circulation by Professor Marsh, relative to the Indian service at the Red Cloud agency, and requesting the chairman to consult with the board and name three members to constitute such commission. The Secretary added a request, that if the chairman should be unable to designate such commission from the board, some other suitable persons should be recommended, to be named by the chairman of the board.

After much deliberation the chairman of the board designated Hon. Thomas C. Fletcher, Hon. Benjamin W. Harris, and Hon. Charles J. Faulkner, as such commission, and they were commissioned by the Secretary of the Interior. The President of the United States appointed Hon. Timothy O. Howe, and Prof. George W. Atherton, who, with the persons first named, constituted a joint commission and entered immediately upon the work of investigation. Testimony covering over eight hundred printed pages was taken by them in New York, Omaha, Red Cloud, Cheyenne, Kansas City, and Washington; and their report closes with a summary of twenty-one practical suggestions, in some of which this board heartily concurs and from some of which they dissent, as has already been explained in detail.

REMOVAL OF THE SIOUX.

The subject of the removal of the Red Cloud and Spotted Tail agencies to a location on the Dakota reservation, where more fertile land can be found, as recommended by the Red Cloud commission, or to the Indian Territory, has received careful attention. The objections to the proposed removal are many, among them being the following:

1. The Indians object to their removal from the vicinity of the "mountains of gold," which they claim as their own and propose to guard.

2. Their chiefs are opposed to instruction and averse to labor, even if placed upon lands adapted to tillage.

3. The exposure of the Indians to the influence of whisky-sellers and other corrupting influences, if they are brought within easy reach of the whites.

4. The uneasy feeling which may be aroused among the border settlers, if these powerful bands are located nearer their homes.

We doubt the policy of compelling a removal, or, at all events, of attempting it by force, and are of the opinion that in the present state of the excitement of the Indians over the Black Hills, they cannot be removed without it. Far more promising of good results would be a set and determined effort to disintegrate these Indians, to colonize small bands or individual families in Dakota or the Indian Territory, who are willing to start out on an effort of self-support by peaceful industries, under offers of homesteads and instruction. The devotion of a small part of the appropriation for these tribes to the organizing of influences to this end would be eminently wise. If, by increasing the number of agencies, or otherwise, these bands could be divided and separated, it would greatly tend to loosen the ties which bind them to their wild and indolent life. Whatever decision may be made by the Department, however, as relates to this particular case, it is of the first importance that the removal, if made, should be final; and the assurance should be extended to the Indian that the home selected for him shall be his permanently.

The lesson most clearly taught by the history of the Indians in our country is, that frequent removals from one reservation or territory to another are destructive of all habits of industry and economy, and effectually defeat all efforts for their education and civilization.

The Indian has very strong local attachments, so that only the most urgent necessity will induce him to leave the home of his fathers. If forced to do it, he cherishes a sense of wrong and bequeaths it to his children.

If in any case a removal is proposed for his own good, as in the case of the Sioux, his new dwelling-place should be so carefully selected and so firmly secured to him, by proper legislation, that he may feel no uncertainty about his future.

The following act, approved March 3, 1875, secured to certain Indians the benefits of the homestead act of May 20, 1862:

* * * * *

SEC. 15. That any Indian born in the United States who is the head of a family or who has arrived at the age of twenty-one years, and who has abandoned, or may hereafter abandon, his tribal relations, shall, on making satisfactory proof of such abandonment, under rules to be prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior, be entitled to the benefits of the act entitled "An act to secure homesteads to actual settlers on the public domain," approved May 20, 1862, and the acts amendatory thereof, except that the provisions of the eighth section of the said act shall not be held to apply to entries made under this act: *Provided, however,* That the title to lands acquired by any Indian by virtue hereof shall not be subject to alienation or incumbrance either by voluntary conveyance or the judgment, decree, or order of any court, and shall be and remain inalienable for a period of five years from the date of the patent issued therefor: *Provided,* That any such Indian shall be entitled to his distributive share of all annuities, tribal funds, lands, and other property the same as though he had maintained his tribal relations; and any transfer, alienation, or incumbrance of any interest he may hold or claim by reason of his former tribal relations shall be void.

* * * * *

This legislation was a step in the right direction, and has already produced practical results in Wisconsin and Dakota; and we respectfully but earnestly recommend that all future legislation shall aim to recognize the Indian's property-rights as an individual man, instead of his

tribal rights as simply a ward of the Government. He needs and desires to own his farm, large or small, in fee-simple, yet inalienable for a term of one or two generations, to escape tempters and sharpers.

TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT.

The Indians occupying the Indian Territory differ widely as to the expediency or desirability of a territorial government. The party among them opposed to such government say that they were invited to give up their lands elsewhere and remove to the present Indian Territory under a solemn promise that it should not be invaded by white settlers, and should be kept in perpetuity as the home of the Indian; that treaties were made with them which would be violated by the establishment of such a government, since, should such territorial government be instituted by Congress, it would, under the operation of the Constitution of the United States, flood the Territory with white settlers, and there would be no possible way of keeping them out. This party also avers that if, in connection with the present general Indian council at Okmulgee, and the government of each tribe over its own members, United States courts were established within the Territory, this would constitute a sufficient and the only government to be desired. The other party favors a regular territorial government; a Delegate in the Congress of the United States; a survey of the lands, and the right to hold lands in severalty—the land to be inalienable for two generations; the breaking up of tribal relations, and eventually the granting of all the rights of citizenship.

In this radical conflict of views among the civilized Indians, the path of duty may not seem entirely plain; but looking to the greatest good of the greatest number, this board would recommend the establishment of United States courts within said Territory, and the establishment of a territorial government *not inconsistent with existing treaties*, and that the lands be surveyed and allotted in severalty, as provided for in the act approved March 3, 1875, provided, however, that Congress shall repeal all railroad grants of land within said Territory, and forever annul such rights.

CHANGE OF INDIAN POLICY.

At the present time the proposition to turn the government of the Indians over from the Department of the Interior to the War Department is gravely discussed, and finds many adherents among those who have heretofore given but little thought to the solution of what is called the "Indian problem." The opinion of the board on this important subject having been sought, officially and otherwise, we present the following as representing our views:

It should be remembered that the Indians once owned this broad continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, and that our ancestors and ourselves have acknowledged their original ownership, and have purchased and acquired by treaty and by force all the lands we now possess. On the discovery of this continent, it is estimated that it was occupied by about three millions of Indians. Now there are less than two hundred and eighty thousand remaining within the limits of the United States. We have removed them, by treaties and otherwise, before the tide of white population, until they are confined within a comparatively narrow space. Now, the conscience of the very large majority of our fellow-citizens insists that we should be both just and

generous with them, as they are rapidly dwindling away under the adverse influences to which they are greatly exposed by vicious and greedy white men, with whom they are surrounded. The only hope of saving this remnant of a noble race lies in their education, civilization, and Christianization. During the last seven years, under many difficulties of administration, there has been a set purpose to improve their condition, which has borne good fruit, and has succeeded beyond any reasonable expectation, as can be established by indubitable evidence. During this time, however, there have been those who have cruelly asserted that these Indians should be exterminated to make room for white men. Such advocates are found plentifully on the borders of Indian reservations and on the march to the Black Hills. Indeed, wherever the Indian has desirable lands, men of this class can be found looking eagerly for an opportunity to enter in and possess them. These men to-day are all of the opinion that the Indians should be handed over to the care of the military. There is another and more respectable class who think it the "manifest destiny" of the white race to wipe out the aborigines, and that their extinction is only a question of time. Therefore, they, too, are quite in favor of putting them under military control. But the vast majority of the American people, when their attention is directed to the subject, will, under a conscientious impulse, oppose any such measure.

While we have the highest respect for the ability, courage, and humanity of our military officers, we cannot close our eyes to the fact that the men who enlist in the Army in time of peace are among the most vicious of our population; and there is unquestionable and abundant evidence, as may be seen by the correspondence published herewith, that wherever the latter are brought into close contact with the Indians, the debauchery of the women and the demoralization of the men inevitably follow. If the Army are given the charge of the Indians, the camp and the agency will be in close proximity, and bad results are certain to follow.

In addition to this, it is worthy of consideration that military rule is everywhere, and in the nature of the case must be, arbitrary. Under its supremacy, force will be brought to bear upon the Indian; this will beget resistance and end in war; and war will, of course, though white men are slain, destroy the Indian.

It can hardly be a question with thoughtful men, whether it is not better to educate the Indians, to build houses and schools and churches for them, to teach them to cultivate the soil and acquire useful trades, to civilize and Christianize them, than to hand them over to a government that we do not choose for ourselves and our children; a government that would feel no interest in, and would make no efforts for, the advancement of those whom it governed; a government which is opposed to the genius of liberty and the progress of the race. We cannot see any benefit whatever that is likely, or even possible, to result from relegating the care of the Indian to the Army. The Army is admirable in its place, but its function is not that of civil government in a republic like ours.

RELATIONS OF INDIANS TO THE STATES.

This board believes that the interests of all parties concerned would be advanced by a transfer of the Indians upon the seven reservations in the State of New York to the authorities of that State. The same is true of other States; and we are pleased to learn that the Interior Department heartily concurs in the recommendation. Recognizing in this

general concurrence of opinion the reasonable ground for a belief that Congress will take this additional step in the path that leads to the solution of the Indian problem, we are encouraged to hope that a better day is about to dawn for these wards of the nation.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

CLINTON B. FISK,
Chairman, Saint Louis, Mo.

E. A. HAYT,
New York.

JOHN D. LANG,
Vassalborough, Me.

B. RUSH ROBERTS,
Sandy Spring, Md.

E. M. KINGSLEY,
New York.

A. C. BARSTOW,
Providence, R. I.

WM. STICKNEY,
Washington, D. C.

U. S. GRANT,
President of the United States.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF INDIAN COMMISSIONERS.

SIR: The executive committee respectfully report that—

During the year 1875 they have examined 1,039 accounts for annuity-goods, supplies, and transportation, amounting to \$3,830,332.74; and 333 cash accounts of superintendents and agents, with vouchers for purchases, pay of employes, and other disbursements at the agencies, amounting to \$4,079,498.40.

Of these, 993 accounts, amounting to \$3,460,123.36, were approved and transmitted to the honorable Secretary of the Interior for settlement; and 80 accounts, representing \$370,209.38, were disapproved, or suspended, for reasons stated in letters transmitting them to the Interior Department.

The cash accounts of agents have generally been approved; but in 142 cases exceptions have been made on account of exorbitant prices, incorrectness, or other irregularities; and in 2 cases the entire accounts have been suspended.

In the great majority of instances the errors and irregularities in this class of accounts have been detected in the Indian Office before their transmittal to this board.

The following is a tabulated statement of accounts acted upon by the executive committee:

Unsettled accounts examined, amounting to	\$3, 830, 332 74
Cash accounts examined, amounting to	4, 079, 498 40
Total	7, 909, 831 14
Unsettled accounts approved, amounting to	\$3, 460, 123 36
Unsettled accounts suspended for examination	92, 557 04
Unsettled accounts disapproved	277, 652 34
	\$3, 830, 332 74

The following are the most important of the accounts suspended and disapproved :

No.	Claimant.	Articles.	Amount.	Date of action.	Action.	Reason.
3446	Nelson Story.....	Supplies.....	\$7,273 29	Mar. 1, 1875	Suspended.....	No urgent necessity for such large purchases in open market is evident.
3448	C. A. Broadwater.....	Beef.....	15,348 70	Feb. 26, 1875	Disapproved.....	Do. On the ground that the prices charged for the articles furnished are exorbitant.
3532	C. F. Heat & Co.....	Goods.....	3,601 73	April 1, 1875	Suspended.....	Until explanation is given of the necessity of this purchase in open market so soon after a contract had been made.
3602	John H. Charles.....	Flour.....	1,187 50	April 3, 1875	Disapproved.....	That the prices charged seem exorbitant and unreasonable.
3607	J. Cohn.....	Supplies.....	404 75	April 17, 1875	Disapproved.....	Do.
3608	Worden & Co.....	Goods.....	885 45	April 17, 1875	Disapproved.....	Until a full statement, with affidavits, showing the ownership of the buildings named, their size, and the materials of which they are constructed, and their value.
3613	Durfee & Peck.....	Rent, &c.....	2,250 00	April 3, 1875	Disapproved.....	For the reason that the need of such a supply of combs at one time cannot be understood without full explanation.
3674	Sol. Hirsch.....	Combs.....	245 45	July 7, 1875	Disapproved.....	There appears to be no authority for this purchase, and the exigency requiring it is not fully shown.
3678	C. A. Broadwater.....	Penmanship.....	3,240 00	May 25, 1875	Disapproved.....	The supplies furnished "under contract" are, in some respects, much larger than the contract of December 4, 1874, calls for, and this excess is not explained.
3680	.....do.....	Supplies.....	19,828 97	May 25, 1875	Disapproved.....	Allowance reduced to \$5,290.
3681	P. A. Largey.....	.....do.....	14,411 90	May 25, 1875	Disapproved.....	\$30,000 previously paid.
3646	Rollins & Presbrey.....	Services.....	42,236 77	July 28, 1875	Disapproved.....	No officer of the Government certifies the account as correct and just. No evidence is given that proves any loss of beef by the claimant, &c.
3687	Adair & Vaun.....	.....do.....	230,000 00	July 28, 1875	Disapproved.....	Not authorized by law.
3680	G. M. Dodge.....	Beef cattle.....	5,054 84	June 22, 1875	Disapproved.....	Allowance reduced to \$162.
3917	D. J. McCann.....	Detention of trains.....	11,368 00	Aug. 5, 1875	Disapproved.....	With the recommendation that it be referred to the United States Inspector for investigation and report.
3980	A. S. Clark.....	Supplies.....	222 22	Aug. 11, 1875	Suspended.....	With request that it be submitted to the Assistant Attorney-General for his opinion as to whether the account as presented can be legally paid.
3739	L. A. Black.....	Carpet.....	153 00	May 22, 1875	Suspended.....	To inquire more fully into the circumstances under which the agents were virtually placed in the power of this contractor for whatever prices he saw fit to exact, whether the agents permitted the supply to become exhausted without notifying the Department, &c.
3771	A. H. Wilder.....	Beef cattle.....	9,553 30	June 4, 1875	Suspended.....	Allowance reduced to \$116 67.
3795	J. M. Dougherty.....	Beef.....	15,839 17	June 8, 1875	Suspended.....	Allowance reduced to \$78 36.
3982	W. V. Rhinehart.....	Supplies.....	155 56	Aug. 11, 1875	Disapproved.....	Do.
3983	Rhinehart & Overhalt.....	Goods.....	105 28	Aug. 11, 1875	Disapproved.....	Allowance reduced to \$563.30, the price charged deemed excessive.
4090	.....do.....	.....do.....	97 08	Aug. 11, 1875	Disapproved.....	Allowance reduced to \$3,988.
4109	William B. Hooper.....	Supplies.....	704 62	Sept. 15, 1875	Disapproved.....	Allowance reduced to \$7,240.80.
4184	.....do.....	Flour.....	11,225 00	Sept. 15, 1875	Disapproved.....	With request that the written authority for the publication of the advertisements referred to be furnished if such authority was given.
4185	.....do.....	.....do.....	9,031 00	Sept. 15, 1875	Disapproved.....	
4203	Washington Chronicle.....	Publishing.....	2,206 00	Sept. 9, 1875	Disapproved.....	
4260	Gibson & Tyler.....	Blankets.....	7,830 05	Sept. 27, 1875	Disapproved.....	Allowance reduced to \$289.65.
4290	C. C. Willard.....	Board, &c.....	292 30	Oct. 1, 1875	Disapproved.....	
4468	Nelson Story.....	Supplies.....	7,516 16	Dec. 1, 1875	Disapproved.....	
4502	F. D. Yates.....	Flour.....	2,899 78	Dec. 2, 1875	Disapproved.....	
4543	Alfred Myers.....	Beef.....	1,885 84	Dec. 14, 1875	Disapproved.....	
4550	Geo. Bruce's Son & Co.....	Printing-type.....	1,407 70	Dec. 20, 1875	Disapproved.....	

Two of the above claims being for large amounts, were referred to the board for consideration, viz: Nos. 3686 and 3687, at the meeting held at Long Branch, July 28, 1875.

Commissioner Hayt, from the special committee appointed at a former meeting of the board on the claim of Rollins and Presbrey for attorney's fees, under an alleged contract with the Eastern band of Cherokees, presented the following report:

To the Board of Indian Commissioners:

GENTLEMEN: Your committee, to whom was referred the claim of Messrs. Rollins & Presbrey, for services rendered the North Carolina band of Cherokee Indians, beg leave to report that the claimants have been attentively heard in their own behalf.

Hon. Wm. Stickney, a member of this board, who served as chairman of a special commission appointed by the Department of the Interior to inquire into the merits of said claim, appeared before this committee, and made full statement of the results of his careful investigation.

It is evident that the lands recovered for the said Indians by the said claimants have been largely overestimated in value.

We respectfully recommend that this board approve of the payment to the claimants of the sum of five thousand and two hundred dollars, (\$5,200,) in full of all demands under said claim, giving the claimants the option to receive that sum in money, or, in lieu thereof, 20 per cent. of the lands by them recovered.

Respectfully submitted.

E. A. HAYT.
CLINTON B. FISK.
E. M. KINGSLEY.

The report was adopted by the board.

Commissioner Kingsley submitted the following resolutions, which were adopted:

Whereas the Secretary of the Interior has referred to this board the claim of Adair and Vaun for \$230,000, for services alleged to have been rendered under a contract with the Osage Indians; and

Whereas the printed statement of said claimants has been carefully considered; it is hereby

Resolved, That the evidence presented in support of the said claim does not, in the judgment of this board, establish its validity.

Resolved, That the amount already allowed by the Department, to wit, \$50,000, which was paid on the recommendation of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in lieu of all claims for past services for the Osage Nation, if any payment was justifiable, is ample for the service alleged to have been rendered.

Resolved, That in view of the foregoing the papers in the said claim be returned to the Department with the disapproval of this board, and with the earnest recommendation that no further payment be made thereon.

The committee have also examined two hundred and sixty-one contracts for clothing, hardware, provisions, farming-tools, stock, and other supplies; for transportation, for construction of mills, school-houses, and other buildings.

Of these eleven have been suspended for additional information and two hundred and forty-nine approved.

In concluding the business of the agencies and supplying the wants of the Indians, it is often necessary to make purchases without delay; and exigencies will arise that cannot be foreseen. But the interests of the service demand that as far as possible the competition of merchants and traders should be invited; and during the last year this has been done to a greater extent than ever before. In 1873 the purchases in open market amounted to \$87,358.76 per month; while in 1875 the average has been \$20,618.55 per month.

In discharging their duties the executive committee have had frequent occasion to consult with the Hon. Secretary of the Interior, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and other officers of the Interior Department, as well as with the officers of the Treasury Department, and they desire to express their thanks for the courtesy which they have received. They have had free access to the records of the Indian-Office, and their inquiries and suggestions have received prompt attention.

Respectfully submitted.

WM. STICKNEY,
B. RUSH ROBERTS,
E. M. KINGSLEY,
Executive Committee.

Hon. C. B. FISK, *Chairman.*

REPORT OF THE PURCHASING COMMITTEE.

The purchasing committee of the Board of Indian Commissioners beg leave to report somewhat in detail their proceedings during the year 1875, hoping thereby to prevent in the future a repetition of the various schemes for defrauding the Indians and the Government which have prevailed in the past. Only by making public the mode of procedure in such cases, by revealing the tricks, subterfuges, evasions, and combinations which have come to our knowledge, and by reciting the means made use of by the committee for their partial defeat, will the experiences of this year be serviceable to the Department and to our successors in this arduous work.

The committee were notified by the Department of the Interior to be present in Washington on the 16th of March, 1875, to advise with the Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs about the purchase of beef for the Whetstone and Red Cloud agencies, when the following facts were elicited: A deficiency bill to the amount of \$120,000 having been passed by Congress in the early part of the month, providing for the purchase of beef then imperatively demanded by the sufferings of the Indians, the Department considered it proper to make the purchase in open market. Before arriving at this conclusion, it had requested the former contractors to furnish the twenty-five per cent. additional called for in their contract. This proposition the contractors declined to accede to, on the plea of "want of seasonable notice." The counsel of the Department having been consulted, held that the contractors could not be compelled to furnish the extra quantity of beef, by reason of the omission of the Department to give seasonable notice that it would be required. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs stated that he could not lawfully order the beef until the supplementary appropriation bill had been passed by Congress. In this dilemma, the Commissioner was of opinion that there seemed to be no other course than to purchase in the open market; which course was pursued by him, and was said to be permissible by the law under which the appropriation was made.

Mr. William Paxton, nominally the old contractor, put in a bid to furnish the quantity of beef required, at \$3.30 per cwt. on the hoof—the old price for the same having been \$2.30 per cwt. The chairman of the purchasing committee, acting for the committee, concluded to see the party making the bid, and to endeavor to get him to withdraw it and substitute a lower one. On inquiry, however, nobody by the name of William Paxton, the party represented as making the bid, could be found; but instead, Mr. J. W. Bosler and Mr. A. H. Wilder appeared at the rooms of the Board of Indian Commissioners and acknowledged themselves to be partners with Mr. Paxton, and whom they represented. These parties stated that at the old price of \$2.30 they had lost money; that they took the contract at that price with the determination to drive off all competitors; that ravages made by the grasshoppers in the West had made cattle dearer; and that they would have to buy rapidly and at advanced prices to meet the present demand. It was urged on behalf of the committee, that the large increase in price would be generally regarded as excessive; that if the contractors desired to continue to do business with the Government they would certainly by such an exacting place themselves at a disadvantage so far as this committee was concerned; and that the great advance in price would be looked upon as an attempt to extort money from the Government. It was also stated on behalf of the committee, from such general information as could be obtained, that cattle could be purchased in Texas and delivered at the Red Cloud and Whetstone agencies at \$2.30 per cwt. at a liberal profit. After some further discussion, Messrs. Bosler & Wilder withdrew Paxton's bid at \$3.30, and in his name substituted one for \$3, which, being the best that could be done under the circumstances, the Department and the committee accepted. It will be perceived that the difference caused by the reduction in price on the quantity of beef finally contracted for, amounted to \$15,000. The committee will here add that these same contractors, six weeks afterward, were interested in a bid and offered to supply the great Sioux agencies at \$2.26 per cwt., as will hereafter appear.

The committee deem it proper to say; at this point, that the appropriation by Congress for the purchase of the beef in question was \$120,000. At \$3 per cwt., this would buy 4,000,000 pounds, and to the purchase of that amount the committee gave its approval. The contract, however, was executed on the 17th of March by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, without further consultation with the committee, for 5,000,000 pounds, amounting to \$150,000—being \$30,000 in excess of the appropriation. The committee are unable to see why this was done in the face of an appropriation specifically limiting the expenditure for this object to \$120,000.

On the 23d of March last, Commissioner William Stickney, acting at the request of the purchasing committee, was present at the opening of bids made pursuant to an advertisement for beef for the Cheyenne and Arapahoe, the Kiowa and the Wichita agencies. The former contractor was J. W. L. Slavens, of Kansas City, Mo., and the former price was \$1.62½ per cwt. For the new contract there were nominally six bidders, as will be seen by the annexed table:

Names of bidders.	Time of delivery.				
	March.	April.	May.	June.	Average.
J. W. L. Slavens	\$2 00	\$1 92	\$1 72	\$1 64	\$1 82
L. J. Callahan	1 73	1 73	1 73	1 73	1 73
Frank Cross	1 62½	1 62½	1 62½	1 62½	1 62½
P. K. Roots	3 49	3 49	3 49	3 49	3 49
H. F. Turner & Co	2 91	2 91	2 91	2 91	2 91
D. Denman	1 92	1 92	1 92	1 92	1 92

The bids which appear in the above table, put in respectively by Frank Cross and L. J. Callahan, were undoubtedly "straw bids" made in the interest of J. W. L. Slavens, as the certified checks deposited were never called for. Callahan's check was for \$3,000 on the National Bank of Kansas City, certified as "good by H. M. Holden, president," and signed by Mr. Callahan. Cross's check was for \$3,000 on the same bank, certified in precisely the same manner, and in the same handwriting as Callahan's. It was drawn by Thomas Simmons. In the first instance the contract was awarded to Cross at \$1.62½ as the lowest bidder; but, as he did not appear to claim his bid, nor did Callahan, the contract was awarded to the next bidder, the old contractor, J. W. L. Slavens. It should be remembered that Mr. Slavens's old contract was at the rate of \$1.62½ per cwt. on the hoof. It thus becomes apparent that, if the bids of Cross and Callahan were, as the committee believe the results sufficiently show, in the interest of J. W. L. Slavens, the effect would be that Mr. Slavens would occupy the ground against any other competitors, so as not to lose the contract in any event, and at the same time secure to himself twelve per cent. profit on 1,700,000 pounds of beef over a former contract that had undoubtedly paid him a large profit. The nature of this transaction does not need to be characterized, but it may be justly assumed that parties who would resort to a device so disreputable when *bidding* for a contract, would have little scruple in evading it by delivering cattle inferior in quality or less in weight than they stipulated to supply and were paid for.

This transaction led the committee to propose to the Secretary of the Interior a different method in letting future contracts, which it was believed would discourage straw bids, either wholly or in part, and make combinations of that kind difficult, if not impossible. They suggested that he should designate five well-known banks of high standing and seven Government depositories as the *only* institutions on which certified checks, given for the five per cent. required to accompany bids, would be received. This was rendered necessary by the fact that some far-off banks had been in the habit of certifying checks for hundreds of thousands of dollars behind which there were no deposits. In conformity with this suggestion, the Secretary named the Chemical National Bank of New York, the National Bank of Commerce of New York, the Metropolitan Bank of New York, the Union National Bank of Chicago, and the National Bank of the State of Missouri of Saint Louis, as the banks whose certified checks would be received. This change was very beneficial, and contributed largely to the promotion of *bona-fide* bids at the subsequent annual letting of contracts at New York. One other method of getting in a straw bid was developed, however, which will be described hereafter in connection with the beef contract. The necessity for such a precaution will be evident, in the opinion of the committee, when we state that the filing of straw bids has heretofore been practiced largely in biddings for contracts in this branch of the public service, not only with impunity by the fraudulent bidder, but to the serious detriment of the Government and the injury of those who made their bids in good faith. It is known that certified checks for sums as large as \$60,000 have lain for half a year without being called for. Under such circumstances, bidding for contracts becomes only a one-sided contest, in which an honorable bidder, competing honestly for the sale of his property, is contending with an unscrupulous combination who have arranged a foregone conclusion in their own favor, by which he is excluded from any possible chance of success. We therefore earnestly recommend that stringent laws be enacted, defining all such fraudulent bids and combinations to defraud the public as misdemeanors, and prescribing such penalties therefor as will make the practice unsafe and unprofitable.

ANNUAL LETTING OF CONTRACTS FOR 1875.

Pursuant to notice the Purchasing Committee met on the 24th day of April, 1875, at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, where it was determined to appoint as inspectors such men only as were of the highest standing for capacity and integrity. The system which had been heretofore pursued of appointing inspectors from the heads of departments in mercantile houses was considered open to objection; and instead, merchants in the various specialties bid for, and who were in no way interested in the bids to be passed

upon, were appointed. In this way not only were the services obtained of men who were experts, but also of known responsibility and integrity of character. As an important safeguard, the committee prepared the following oath, which was administered to each inspector by a Notary Public of the city of New York.

FORM OF OATH TO INSPECTORS.

"I, John Doe, of the city of New York, in the State of New York, having been duly appointed by the United States Board of Indian Commissioners, an inspector of goods proposed to be furnished by contract with the Indian Department, for the fulfillment of treaty-stipulations with the several tribes and for other purposes connected with the administration of Indian affairs, do solemnly swear that I will well, faithfully, impartially, and without fear or favor, discharge the duties of said position; and I do further solemnly swear that I have no interest, present or prospective, directly or indirectly, in any contract, proposal, or other proposition for the sale, purchase, furnishing, or delivery of any article whatsoever for the Indian Department.

Subscribed and sworn before me this the 1st day of May, 1875."

The committee are aware that there is no law empowering the administration of an oath by this board, or any member of it; but an oath, thus voluntarily taken before a Notary Public, is as binding on the conscience of an inspector as if it had been prescribed by an express statute. We, however, respectfully recommend that the necessary legislation be had to vest the power to administer oaths to inspectors in the members of this board.

The gentlemen who were selected by the board as inspectors were as follows, viz:

Lawson N. Fuller, of the firm of Aldema & Fuller, inspector of sugars.

Charles A. Miller, of the firm of D. J. Ely & Co., inspector of coffees.

George W. Lane, of the firm of George W. Lane & Co., inspector of teas.

John McKesson, of the firm of McKesson & Robbins, inspector of indigo and drugs.

Henry S. Terbell, formerly of Terbell, Jennings & Co., inspector of dry goods.

Edward Slade, of the firm of John Slade & Co., inspector of blankets and woolens.

W. J. Hoodless, of the firm of W. J. Hoodless & Co., of the national tobacco inspection, inspector of tobacco.

Thomas S. Young, of the firm of T. S. Young & Co., inspector of clothing.

William Bryce, of the firm of William Bryce & Co., inspector of hardware.

Orrin Benedict, of the firm of Orrin Benedict & Co., inspector of hats and caps.

E. R. Livermore, 119 Broad street, inspector of flour.

Samuel W. Bass, of the firm of Bass & Clark, inspector of groceries.

R. B. Currier, of the firm of Currier, Sherwood & Co., inspector of boots and shoes.

At the suggestion of the purchasing committee the board found it necessary to appoint a clerk to attend to the details of the receipt and delivery of goods at the depot, No. 82 White street, New York, and appointed Mr. Bartholomew Brown in that capacity, who served faithfully and efficiently from the 28th of April until the last of the goods were shipped, in the early part of July.

The schedule of awards approved by the Purchasing Committee and the board will be found in the Appendix (A.)

There was an unusually large number of competitors in all branches, and from all parts of the country, of manufactured goods advertised for, except blankets; the supplies were obtained at very low prices, and generally there was a fair competition. The inspectors performed their duties with perfect fairness and great good judgment. We believe no fairer award could possibly have been made than was made in teas, coffees, sugars, dry goods, boots and shoes, clothing, hardware, groceries, tobacco, and indigo.

The awards for beef were not so satisfactory, as will hereinafter appear.

CLOTHING.

The fulfillment of the contract for clothing was not satisfactory, as we shall proceed to show: Messrs. Wanamaker & Brown, Philadelphia, had secured the award of almost the entire clothing contract by the excellent samples presented by them and the relatively low prices bid. When Mr. Thomas S. Young, inspector of clothing, went to Philadelphia to examine a large portion of goods which were ready for shipment, under the contract, he found that the material that had been used in them was much inferior to that of which the samples were made and on which the award was obtained. This inferiority of the fabric was admitted on the part of the firm, who claimed that a mistake had occurred in putting too good cloth in the samples. As the goods were otherwise well made and up to the requirement, the inspector reluctantly concluded to accept them at a discount of ten per cent. Shortly after, Mr. W. H. Wanamaker, a brother of Mr. John Wanamaker of that firm, applied to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to have the ten per cent. deduction remitted, who referred the matter to the Purchasing Committee. The committee decided that the inspector had dealt leniently with Wanamaker & Brown in making so small a reduction; and they further agreed

that Mr. W. H. Wanamaker, having personally shown the goods to the committee at the letting, and having claimed the award on the ground that the cloth used by his firm was heavier and better than that of the next competitor, but having partially filled the contract with inferior goods, they could not accept the statement that a "mistake" had occurred in making the samples, as Messrs. Wanamaker & Brown were experienced merchants, long in business, and experts in the fabric used. The action of the inspector was sustained, and the committee demanded that the remainder of the contract should be filled with the quality of goods used in the samples on which the award was obtained, in preference to the inferior goods at a discount of ten per cent.

The committee insist that every contractor must be held to a strict fulfillment of his contract, as a matter of simple justice to the Government and to his competitors. In no case should an allowance be made for what is called a "mistake" in putting in too good samples on which to obtain an award.

BEEF.

The letting of beef contracts is the most undesirable work with which the committee have had to do, and they frankly admit that the result has been most unsatisfactory. The whole amount of beef advertised for at the annual letting is, in round numbers, thirty-six millions of pounds; of which about *twenty-six millions* are let under one contract for the great Sioux agencies. It has become the practice of the Department to adopt this course, as it is alleged, to avoid the rivalry and contentions of different contractors, who, it is said, must necessarily cross each other's tracks. The impression has also prevailed that if the beef for all these agencies were not put together, under one contract, possibly higher prices would have to be paid for the more remote agencies. The result of this year's experience convinces the committee that it is the worst possible policy to lump so large an amount of beef under one contract, as it inevitably leads to the formation of combinations adverse to the interests of the Government. Practically all are shut out from competition for the bid except two combinations of contractors, the stronger of which usually buys out the opposing competitor, and, by practices which we will make clear, compels the Government to pay the price given to the party who sells his bid and a large profit besides. These two parties this year may be designated, for brevity, as the "Bosler" and the "Seth Mabry" parties. The "Bosler party" consists of the brothers Bosler, A. H. Wilder, D. W. Clinton Wheeler, J. T. Baldwin, General Dodge, J. B. Beard, and others. As *bona-fide* certified checks had to be deposited with the Commissioner of Indian Affairs this year, the old method of using bogus certified checks for "straw bids" would not answer, and a new device to relieve the Government of surplus cash was resorted to, which deserves some credit for its ingenuity, though this is the only praise that can be accorded to it.

The bids for the great Sioux agencies, or the Sioux and Ponca agencies, were as follows:

J. B. Beard bid for all the agencies, namely, for:

1,300,000 pounds for the Yankton agency, Dakota, 2 cents per pound gross.
5,800,000 pounds for the Whetstone agency, Dakota, 3 cents per pound gross.
1,800,000 pounds for the Upper Missouri agency, Dakota, 2 cents per pound gross.
3,900,000 pounds for the Cheyenne River agency, Dakota, 2½ cts. per pound gross.
4,600,000 pounds for the Standing Rock agency, Dakota, 2½ cts. per pound gross.
6,600,000 pounds for the Red Cloud agency, Dakota, 3 cents per pound gross.
400,000 pounds for the Santee agency, Nebraska, 1 cent per pound gross.
300,000 pounds for the Ponca agency, Dakota, 1 cent per pound gross.
500,000 pounds for the Fort Berthold agency, Dakota, 1 cent per pound gross.
800,000 pounds for the Fort Peck agency, Dakota, 1 cent per pound gross.

Total 26,800,000 pounds.

Mr. Beard accompanied his bid with the remark, "The average, as I figure it, being \$2.26" (per cwt.) The bid was also accompanied by J. T. Baldwin's six certified checks for \$5,000 each—total, \$30,000.

The next bids, covering about the same field, were those of Seth Mabry, at an average price of \$2.46½ per cwt., and L. T. Greenfield (with A. H. Wilder's certified checks for \$45,000 accompanying) at \$2.55 per cwt.

Then followed J. W. Bosler's bid for the same, with certified checks accompanying, at \$2.95 per cwt. Mr. J. B. Beard, being the lowest bidder, was awarded the contract, and for four days it was supposed by the committee that the contract would be made with Beard with proper sureties. Inquiry instituted by the committee, however, revealed the fact that the Boslers, Dodge, Baldwin, Wheeler, Wilder, and others, were connected with Beard. Meantime, as the committee afterwards learned, Bosler was in negotiation with Mabry for an arrangement of his bid at \$2.46½ as the average price for the whole contract, and, within the four days which we have referred to, had in fact bargained for and procured the control of Mabry's bid, by the payment to him of \$30,000 in cash and an agreement to purchase of him 25,000 head of cattle—stipu-

lating to pay \$12 for cows and \$20 for four-year-old beeves. From the evidence in the appendix, (B), it will be seen that Mabry sold Bosler 18,000 four-year-old steers at \$20 each, or \$2 over any price paid at any time for steers, as shown in evidence taken; this would give Mabry \$36,000 for the sale of his bid. When this arrangement was at length agreed upon, to Mr. Bosler's satisfaction, J. B. Beard suddenly discovered that he had made a "mistake" in his average—that his bid instead of "figuring up \$2.26" was really about \$2.62—a slight transposition of figures, it is true, but which should have been quite significant of the intent that lurked beneath it. However, Commissioner E. P. Smith, accepting Mr. Beard's version, charitably looked upon the transaction as a "mistake," and instead of holding Beard's deposit as a forfeit, gave him up his deposit of \$30,000, consisting of J. T. Baldwin's certified checks above mentioned. We do not desire to convey the impression that Mr. Smith knew the facts we have recited, for we did not know them ourselves at the time. But there is no doubt on our minds that if Mabry's bid had been \$2.27, Beard would have claimed the award at \$2.26. We have no doubt that the bid of Beard was a "straw bid," intended to hold good in case of close competition; and it is apparent to ordinary acuteness that the argument which Mr. Bosler used to intimidate Mabry into giving him control of his (Mabry's) bid, must have been that Beard's bid would be made to hold good if he (Mabry) did not sell. It must be remembered that Bosler's contract for the year previous for the same service was at \$2.30 per cwt., and the Red Cloud investigating commission deduce from his own testimony that it yielded him a probable net profit of \$117,510.18.* It is quite clear that the bids of the persons representing what we have designated as the "Bosler" party, were Beard's, averaging \$2.26, Greenfield's,† averaging \$2.55, and Bosler's at \$2.95. If Mabry had not put in his bid at \$2.46‡, Beard was prepared to find his mistake, by which the combination, instead of supplying beef at \$2.26, would have secured it at the advanced rate of \$2.55—of course profiting by the difference in the precise proportion that the Government would be made to pay additional—the real difference between \$2.26 and \$2.46‡ being, as appears from the contract made, twenty and a half cents per one hundred pounds on 31,500,000 pounds, amounting to \$64,575. The committee cannot designate this as a mercantile transaction, but must interpret it as a conspiracy against the Government. (See Appendix B.)

The advertisement for beef for the great Sioux agencies was for 26,800,000 pounds. The contract under the award was made by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for 31,500,000 pounds, of which 9,000,000 pounds were for the Red Cloud agency alone. If we take the large estimate of 13,000 at that agency, we will have about one pound of beef on the *block* (i. e. net weight) for every man, woman, and child for 365 days in the year.

BLANKETS.

The letting of the contract for blankets was divided between the three competing parties, when 45 per cent. of the whole amount was awarded to John Dobson & Co., of Philadelphia; 30 per cent. to C. H. Ammidown, of Passaic, N. J.; and 25 per cent. to Gibson & Tyler, of Minneapolis, Minn. The committee are of the opinion that in this instance the division of the contract subverted the best interests of the Government, but this should be the exception and not the rule. There were no complaints about the fulfillment of the first two contracts. But Gibson & Tyler claimed the right to deviate from the sizes and weight of samples furnished in accordance with the advertisement, provided the average weight per bale should be furnished. This the inspector would not allow, but insisted upon uniformity of size and weight, and deducted wherever blankets were found deficient in weight, and would allow nothing for those that were over weight. This was the only mercantile way of settling the difficulty.

TRANSPORTATION, ETC.

The rates paid for railroad transportation this year were exceedingly low, and there has been no complaint that the work has not been well done. But the rates paid contractors beyond the reach of railroad facilities have not been satisfactory, and the enormous amounts paid annually for transportation of this kind suggest the propriety of bringing the larger agencies nearer our railroads and navigable rivers.

The class of inspectors who have acted hitherto at Sioux City, Kansas City, and Cheyenne, have not performed their duties satisfactorily, and as the committee were unable to find civilians in their stead in whom confidence could be placed, a request was made to the President of the United States to order a detail of Army officers to act

* "With full compliance with the contracts of 1874-'75, we are satisfied, from all the evidence, that the above sum of \$117,510.18, at least, was possible as net profit to the contractor, assuming that he lost by accident, disease, and Indian raids, 995 head, which is the number purchased by him in excess of what he turned over and was paid for, and which were lost by him."—*Report of Special Commission to Investigate the Affairs of the Red Cloud Agency*, p. xxxiii.

† Even L. T. Greenfield's bid at \$2.55 contained a condition, as follows, "provided all the cattle for Santee, Ponca, Fort Berthold, Fort Peck, Southern Apache, Cimarron, and Abiquiu agencies are received at one delivery," which proviso did not correspond with the terms of the advertisement, and was intended to operate as Beard's "average" did, provided there was no bid between his (Greenfield's) bid at \$2.55 and J. W. Bosler's bid at \$2.95.

as inspectors of flour, pork, bacon, corn, and oats, at each of the above localities. In compliance with this request, Lieutenant-General Sheridan was directed to make the detail, and Capt. R. J. Eskridge was detailed to inspect at Cheyenne, Capt. J. W. Gilman at Kansas City, and Capt. Charles McClure at Sioux City.

We have had reports from the work done by Captain Eskridge, and believe he has done his duty faithfully, rejecting considerable quantities of supplies at Cheyenne, which, however, by the connivance of warehouse-men and store-keepers, have been forwarded to the Red Cloud and Spotted Tail agencies. After the arrival of such supplies at these agencies without the approval of the inspector, parties in the interest of the contractors telegraphed to the late Commissioner of Indian Affairs to have a local inspection, and he replied directing a board of appraisement to be called in; and as this body is usually made up from the hangers-on at the agency, the previously rejected articles have almost invariably been accepted, thus neutralizing the object of the inspection provided by the board; and this has been practiced largely in corn, oats, and flour.

The board this year, under the supervision of the purchasing committee, sent its clerk, Mr. N. K. Barnum, to the Red Cloud and Spotted Tail agencies, to examine carefully into the receipt of the goods shipped from the East. He has traced the goods from Chicago on to Cheyenne, has followed them to the agencies, and has examined the receipts at these agencies very fully and carefully. He has also returned us samples of the goods received at these agencies, which on comparison we find to be identical with the goods purchased here. The old way of sending out samples of purchased goods to the Indian agents was abandoned this year, and instead, we require samples of goods received at the agencies to be sent to us, as under the old system a dishonest agent could return the same samples as were sent to him. Now all agents are obliged to send samples of what they receive. Mr. Barnum this year was ordered to inspect and personally weigh the cattle received at these agencies, and not only examine carefully all goods in the agency building, but to visit the Indians and obtain from them samples of what they received. In this way it is believed that thorough work has been done, and this committee has in hand the evidence that will convince the most skeptical, that in the main there has been an honest purchase and delivery of annuity goods and supplies for the year 1875. The Indians of these two agencies (Spotted Tail and Red Cloud) make no complaint whatever, but, on the contrary, say that their sugars, teas, coffees, tobacco, and dry-goods are better than they ever received before. Mr. Barnum's report will be found in the appendix.

Commissioner A. C. Barstow was designated by the committee to make purchases in California and Oregon.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

E. A. HAYT, *Chairman,*

E. M. KINGSLEY,

CLINTON B. FISK,

Purchasing Committee.

APPENDIX A.

Contracts made at the annual letting, New York, April 27, 1875.

Names.	Articles.	Prices.	Where delivered.
Arnold, B. G. & Co.	10,100 pounds tea.	\$0 30	New York.
Ammidown, Charles H.	800 pairs 3-point white blankets.	6 12	Do.
	530 pairs 24-point white blankets.	7 53	Do.
	750 pairs 3-point scarlet blankets.	7 44	Do.
	730 pairs 24-point scarlet blankets.	5 58	Do.
	1,200 pairs 3-point blue blankets.	6 32	Do.
	750 pairs 24-point blue blankets.	4 74	Do.
	430 pairs 3-point green blankets.	5 38	Do.
	300 pairs 24-point green blankets.	3 35	Do.
Auerbach, Finch & Scheffer	123 dozen men's wool socks.	1 96	Do.
Altman, James & Co	133 dozen 2-quart tin pans.	1 60	Do.
	133 dozen 6-quart tin pans.	2 00	Do.
	338 dozen tinned-iron table-spoons.	33	Do.
	352 dozen tinned-iron tea-spoons.	25	Do.
	1,800 black camp-kettles.	1 61	Do.
Benham & Stontenborough.	350,000 pounds sugar.	.0894	Philadelphia.
Bertel, H. W.	17,000 yards red flannel.	38	New York.
Cladin, H. B. & Co.	46,000 yards linseys.	22	Do.
	23,500 yards satinnet.	51½	Do.
	400 yards Kentucky jeans.	45	Do.
	3,500 shawls.	20	Do.
	36,700 yards ticking.	1 70	Do.
	50,000 yards blue drilling.	13½	Do.
	9,300 yards hickory shirting.	12½	Do.
	7,760 red flannel shirts.	1 21	Do.
	4,150 calico shirts with bosoms and collars.	33½	Do.
	225,000 yards calico.	07½	Do.
	360 dozen coarse combs, 5 inch.	40	Do.
	292 dozen fine combs.	44	Do.
	68,000 Glover's needles.	2 50	Do.
	174,000 needles, assorted.	1 50	Do.
Charles, J. H.	35,000 pounds soap.	.066	Stout City.
Colgate & Co.	32,500 pounds soap.	84	New York.
Duryee, H. W.	1,036 boys' hats.	69	Do.
Davidson, S. & M., & Co.	11,600 gray flannel shirts.	40	Do.
	7,500 hickory shirts.	5 50	Do.
Dunham, Buckley & Co	40 dozen woolen scarfs.	17½	Do.
	7,950 yards denim.	3 15	Do.
	1,045 dozen men's socks.	3 40	Do.
	992 dozen women's hose.		Do.

APPENDIX A—Continued.

Names.	Articles.	Prices.	Where delivered.
Dunham, Buckley & Co	836 dozen children's hose.....	\$1 55	New York.
	1,230 pounds cotton malle. { No. 30	1 48	Do.
	2,282 pounds gilling-twine { No. 35	1 48	Do.
		1 36	Do.
		1 01½	Do.
		1 10	Do.
		1 22	Do.
		364	Do.
		594	Do.
Dobson, John	93 dozen zinc mirrors.....	1 35	Philadelphia.
	5,900 bunches beads, assorted colors.....	1 35	Do.
	13,100 yards saved list blue cloth.....	6 36	Do.
	13,700 yards saved list scarlet cloth.....	6 36	Do.
	1,930 pairs 3-point white blankets.....	4 77	Do.
	725 pairs 2½-point white blankets.....	4 17	Do.
	290 pairs 2-point white blankets.....	6 72	Do.
	1,635 pairs 3-point scarlet blankets.....	5 04	Do.
	1,075 pairs 2-point scarlet blankets.....	4 41	Do.
	625 pairs 2-point scarlet blankets.....	6 00	Do.
	3,480 pairs 3-point indigo-blue blankets.....	4 50	Do.
	3,475 pairs 2½-point indigo-blue blankets.....	3 84	Do.
	1,975 pairs 2-point indigo-blue blankets.....	6 72	Do.
	1,310 pairs 3-point green blankets.....	5 04	Do.
	900 pairs 2½-point green blankets.....	4 41	Do.
	290 pairs 2-point green blankets.....	324	New York.
	10,350 yards blue flannel.....	30	Do.
	7,400 pounds baking powder.....	2137	Baltimore.
Faulkner, Page & Co.	411,500 pounds coffee.....	1 75	New York.
Fitts & Austin	100 dozen hoe-handles.....	6 60	Saint Paul.
Foley, D. J., Brothers & Co.	625 pairs 3-point white blankets.....	4 95	Do.
Green, R. M., & Co.	1,347 pairs 2½ point white blankets.....	4 38½	Do.
	1,101 pairs 2-point white blankets.....	3 50½	Do.
Gibson & Tyler	1,090 pairs 1½-point white blankets.....	7 40	Do.
	175 pairs 3-point scarlet blankets.....	5 55	Do.
	100 pairs 2½-point scarlet blankets.....	4 85½	Do.
	200 pairs 2-point scarlet blankets.....	6 60	Do.
	530 pairs 3-point blue blankets.....	4 95	Do.
	50 pairs 2½-point blue blankets.....	4 38½	Do.
	850 pairs 2-point blue blankets.....	7 40	Do.
	50 pairs 3-point green blankets.....	5 55	Do.
	50 pairs 2½-point green blankets.....	4 85½	Do.
	100 pairs 2-point green blankets.....	72	New York
Hoyt & Busick	130 dozen tinmed iron dippers, long-handle.....	1 35	Do.
	931 dozen butcher-knives, 6-inch.....	1 57	Do.
	410 dozen hunting-knives, 6-inch.....	1 35	Do.
	83 dozen skinning-knives, 6-inch.....	1 00	Do.
	322 sewing-awls, (dozen,) per gross.....		Do.

437 dozen sewing-awl-handles, per dozen.....	94	Do.
552 dozen cast-steel axes, 3 to 4½ pounds.....	9 20	Do.
327 dozen cast-steel axes, hunter's handled.....	5 90	Do.
210 beaver-traps, Newhouse No. 4, per dozen.....	13 18	Do.
124 mink-traps, Newhouse No. 1½, per dozen.....	5 98	Do.
500 pounds ludgo.....	1 90	Do.
596 dozen ax-handles.....	1 87	Do.
135 wire sleeves.....	2 25	Do.
196,000 yards brown-sheeting.....	094	Do.
176 dozen paper files, No. 4½, per dozen.....	99	Do.
62 dozen mill-saw files.....	2 95	Do.
335 dozen fish-lines, No. 1, per dozen.....	21	Do.
335 dozen fish-lines, No. 2, per dozen.....	23	Do.
335 dozen fish-lines, No. 3, per dozen.....	27	Do.
335 dozen fish-lines, No. 4, per dozen.....	32	Do.
335 dozen fish-lines, No. 5, per dozen.....	35	Do.
335 dozen fish-lines, No. 6, per dozen.....	63	Do.
335 dozen fish-lines, No. 7, per dozen.....	44	Do.
184 dozen open thinblades.....	30	Do.
895 dozen fish-hooks, No. 1½, per hundred.....	30	Do.
895 dozen fish-hooks, No. 1-0, per hundred.....	30	Do.
895 dozen fish-hooks, No. 3-0, per hundred.....	33	Do.
895 dozen fish-hooks, No. 4-0, per hundred.....	32	Do.
895 dozen fish-hooks, No. 5-0, per hundred.....	35	Do.
895 dozen fish-hooks, No. 6-0, per hundred.....	55	Do.
1,215 pairs women's shoes, sample No. 2.....	1 35	Do.
487 pairs misses' shoes, sample No. 1.....	1 10	Do.
100 pairs children's shoes, sample No. 1.....	87	Do.
5,500 8-quat galvanized camp-kettles, no covers, per dozen.....	5 00	Do.
5,500 12-quat galvanized camp-kettles, no covers, per dozen.....	6 00	Do.
5,500 14-quat galvanized camp-kettles, no covers, per dozen.....	7 00	Do.
36,800 pounds tobacco.....	524	Do.
About 3,000 pounds coffee.....	214	Do.
Or at Morris, Minn., at.....	22	Do.
The tobacco for the Sisseton agency to be delivered at Morris, Minn., at the option of the Indian Office, at the rate of 534 cents per pound.....		Saint Paul or Sioux City
470,000 pounds sugar, per one hundred pounds.....		Saint Paul.
143 dozen planter's hoes.....		Morris, Minn.
94 dozen hatchets.....		
890 caps, sample No. 28.....		Philadelphia.
428 dozen tin plates.....		New York.
521 dozen fry-pans, short-handled, No. 1.....	1 60	Do.
521 dozen fry-pans, short-handled, No. 2.....	1 85	Do.
521 dozen fry-pans, short-handled, No. 3.....	2 10	Do.
108 cast-steel pocket-knives.....	3 75	Do.
108 cast-steel shears, 7½ (dozen).....	3 60	Do.
108 cast-steel shears, 8 (dozen).....	3 75	Do.
218 dozen knives and forks.....	60	Do.
505 suits for boys.....	5 40	Do.
125 vests for boys.....	1 25	Do.
Hoyt & Busiek.....		
Holbrook, G. H.....		
Hazell & Co.....		
Hecht Bros. & Co.....		
Iron-Clad Can Company.....		
Kelly, P. H.....		
Knight, E. C. & Co.....		
Lane, Gale & Co.....		
Lester, J. W. & Co.....		
Lalance and Grosjean Manufacturing Company.....		
Louderback, Gilbert & Co.....		
Newburger & Hockstadters.....		

APPENDIX A—Continued.

Names.	Articles.	Prices.	Where delivered.
Pitkin & Thomas	108,000 yards duck, No. 1.....	\$0 15½	New York, Philadelphia, or Baltimore.
	2,000 pairs men's shoes, assorted.....	1 83	Do.
	560 pairs boys' shoes, 5 and 6.....	1 23	Do.
	or subject to water-proof process, at option of Indian Office, per pair.....	1 40	Do.
	300 Army blouses.....	1 23	Do.
	5,800 Army hats.....	40	Do.
Reynolds, A. E.	29,300 pounds tobacco.....	43	Saint Louis and Omaha.
Raymond, A. B., & Sons	124,000 pounds beans, delivered in barrels.....	3 20	Chicago.
Stewart, A. T., & Co.	130,000 pounds of which (for Red Cloud and Whetstone agencies) to be delivered in sacks, at.....	3 23	Do.
Troy Stamping Works	1,102 dozen spool-cotton, 6 cord, colored.....	60	New York.
	770 dozen tin-cups, quart.....	70	Do.
	72 dozen tin-cups, pint.....	59	Do.
Thurber, H. K., & Co.	22,000 pounds rice.....	6 74	Do.
Wanamaker & Brown	1,120 overcoats.....	6 25	Philadelphia.
	3,131 sack-coats.....	3 80	Do.
	1,689 vests, assorted sizes, men's.....	1 35	Do.
	3,000 pairs pants, lined.....	2 00	Do.
Wilson & Bradbury	300 dozen handkerchiefs, No. 2.....	1 71	Do.
	300 dozen handkerchiefs, No. 3.....	1 47	Do.
	2,100 pounds linen thread, W. Brown, No. 30.....	84½	Do.
	2,100 pounds linen thread, W. Brown, No. 35.....	93½	Do.
	2,100 pounds linen thread, W. Brown, No. 40.....	1 08½	Do.
	2,100 pounds linen thread, D. K. Blue, No. 30.....	84½	Do.
	2,100 pounds linen thread, D. K. Blue, No. 35.....	96½	Do.
	2,100 pounds linen thread, D. K. Blue, No. 40.....	1 13½	Do.
	6,000 yards prints.....	07½	Do.
	14,000 yards prints.....	08	Do.
BEEF.			
Boesler, J. W.	500,000 pounds beef, gross.....	2 95	Fort Berthold agency.
Hunter & Curtiss	1,000,000 pounds beef, gross.....	3 43	Colorado River agency, Ariz.
	1,275,000 pounds beef, gross.....	3 43	Camp Apache agency, Ariz.
	1,900,000 pounds beef, gross.....	3 43	San Carlos agency, Ariz.
	650,000 pounds beef, gross.....	3 43	Chiricahua agency, Ariz.
Inaley & McDonald	1,900,000 pounds beef, gross.....	1 619	Cheyenne and Arapahoe agencies.
	2,300,000 pounds beef, gross.....	1 619	Kiowa agency.
	700,000 pounds beef, gross.....	1 619	Wichita agency.
Kiskadden, William	1,500,000 pounds beef, gross.....	1 70	Crow agency, Mont.
	200,000 pounds beef, gross.....	2 00	Fort Hall agency, Idaho.
	100,000 pounds beef, gross.....	1 90	Lemhi agency, Idaho.
Lathrop, A. W. & Bro.	40,000 pounds beef, gross.....	3 50	Sisseton agency, Dak.
McCrane, David	25,000 pounds beef, gross.....	4 00	Devil's Lake agency, Dak.
Mabry, Seth	100,000 pounds beef, gross.....	1 95	Blackfeet agency, Mont.
	400,000 pounds beef, gross.....	2 46½	Santee Sioux agency.

Rosenthal, W.	1,500,000 pounds beef, gross.	1 500	Yankton agency.
Speigellberg, Willi.	8,000,000 pounds beef, gross.	2 461	Spotted Tail agency.
Largay, P. A.	1,800,000 pounds beef, gross.	2 464	Upper Missouri (Crow Creek) agency.
	5,000,000 pounds beef, gross.	2 464	Cheyenne River agency.
	6,300,000 pounds beef, gross.	2 464	Standing Rock agency.
	9,000,000 pounds beef, gross.	2 464	Red Cloud agency.
	300,000 pounds beef, gross.	2 464	Ponca agency.
	1,000,000 pounds beef, gross.	1 63	Mescalero Apache, N. Mex.
	250,000 pounds beef, gross.	1 89	Southern Apache, N. Mex.
	70,000 pounds beef, net.	3 98	Cimarron agency, N. Mex.
	50,000 pounds beef, net.	6 50	Abiquin agency, N. Mex.
	100,000 pounds beef, gross.	1 874	Fort Belknap agency.
	800,000 pounds beef, gross.	1 874	Fort Peck agency.
Baldwin, J. T.	880,000 pounds corn (shelled)	3 50	Red Cloud agency.
Charles, J. H.	400,000 pounds corn for Cheyenne River agency.	1 12	Sioux City, Iowa.
	450,000 pounds corn for Standing Rock agency.	1 12	Do.
	200,000 pounds corn for Yankton agency.	1 12	Do.
	300,000 pounds corn for Upper Missouri agency.	1 12	Do.
	50,000 pounds corn for Ponca agency.	1 12	Do.
McCann, D. J.	300,000 pounds corn for Spotted Tail agency.	2 10	Cheyenne, Wyo.
Rosenthal, W.	100,000 pounds corn.	2 84	Mescalero Apache, N. Mex.
	25,000 pounds corn.	2 37	Southern Apache, N. Mex.
Charles, J. H.	350,000 pounds flour for Cheyenne River agency.	2 97	Sioux City, Iowa.
	350,000 pounds flour for Standing Rock agency.	2 97	Do.
	250,000 pounds flour for Upper Missouri agency.	2 97	Do.
	100,000 pounds flour for Fort Berthold agency.	2 97	Do.
	50,000 pounds flour for Ponca agency.	2 97	Do.
Hunter & Curtiss.	250,000 pounds flour.	3 17	Fort Peck agency, Mont.
	300,000 pounds flour.	7 50	Colorado River agency, Ariz.
	275,000 pounds flour.	7 50	Camp Apache agency.
	500,000 pounds flour.	7 50	San Carlos agency.
	100,000 pounds flour.	7 00	Chiricahua agency.
	100,000 pounds corn.	4 00	Camp Apache agency.
	100,000 pounds corn.	4 00	San Carlos agency.
	75,000 pounds corn.	4 00	Chiricahua agency.
Insley & McDonald.	710,000 pounds flour (280,000 pounds for Cheyenne and Arapahoe agencies; 370,000 pounds for Kiowa agency; 60,000 pounds for Wichita agency)	2 57	Kansas City, Mo.
Kiskadden, William.	225,000 pounds flour.	4 00	Blackfoot agency, Mont.
	500,000 pounds flour.	3 25	Crow agency.
	75,000 pounds flour.	3 00	Lemhi agency, Idaho.
Largey, P. A.	100,000 pounds flour.	3 50	Fort Hall agency, Idaho.
McCann, D. J.	225,000 pounds flour.	4 45	Fort Belknap agency, Mont.
Rosenbaum, Louis.	200,000 pounds flour for Spotted Tail agency.	2 70	Cheyenne, Wyo.
Rosenthal, William.	100,000 pounds flour.	4 50	Southern Apache, N. Mex.
Staeb, Z.	400,000 pounds flour.	5 00	Mescalero Apache.
	50,000 pounds flour.	4 99	Abiquin agency, N. Mex.

APPENDIX A—Continued.

Names.	Articles.	Prices.	Where delivered.
Wells, N. W.	200,000 pounds flour for Spotted Tail agency.....per 100 pounds. 500,000 pounds flour.....do..... Or the same delivered at Red Cloud agency.....do.....	\$2 70 2 58½ 4 30	Sidney or Cheyenne, Do.
B	PORK AND BACON.		
	50,000 pounds pork for Cheyenne River agency.....per barrel. 12,000 pounds pork for Santee Sioux agency.....do..... 25,000 pounds pork for Yankton agency.....do..... 37,000 pounds pork for Upper Missouri agency.....do..... 50,000 pounds pork for Fort Berthold agency.....do..... 10,000 pounds pork for Ponca agency.....do..... 25,000 pounds pork for Fort Peck agency.....do..... 75,000 pounds bacon for Cheyenne River agency.....do..... 25,000 pounds bacon for Standing Rock agency.....do..... 37,000 pounds bacon for Yankton agency.....do..... 50,000 pounds bacon for Upper Missouri agency.....do..... 50,000 pounds pork for Sisseton agency, Dak.....per barrel. 200 barrels mess-pork for Devil's Lake agency.....do..... 250,000 pounds corn.....per 100 pounds. 50,000 pounds pork or bacon.....do..... 50,000 pounds mess-pork or bacon.....per pound, net. 3,000 pounds bacon.....do..... 4,000 pounds bacon.....do..... 40,000 pounds mess-pork or bacon.....do..... 30,000 pounds bacon for Cheyenne and Arapahoe agency.....per 100 pounds. 37,500 pounds bacon for Kiowa agency.....do..... 14,000 pounds bacon for Wichita agency.....do..... 200,000 pounds bacon for Red Cloud agency.....do..... 150,000 pounds bacon for Spotted Tail agency.....do.....	24 97 24 97 24 97 24 97 24 97 24 97 24 97 14 44 14 44 14 44 14 44 14 44 26 72 27 72 2 30 15 00 15 14 16 14 13 87 13 87 13 87 14 90 14 90	Sioux City, Iowa. Do. Do. Do. Do. Do. Do. Do. Do. Do. Do. Do. Morris, Minn. Jamestown, Dak. Fort Peck agency, Mont. Fort Belknap agency, Mont. Blackfeet agency, Mont. Fort Hall agency, Idaho. Lemhi agency, Idaho. Crow agency, Mont. Kansas City, Mo. Do. Do. Cheyenne, Wyo. Do.
	SHORTS.		
	150,000 pounds shorts.....per 100 pounds.	3 50	Cimarron agency, N. Mex.
	WHEAT.		
	5,000 bushels wheat.....per bushel. 3,000 bushels wheat.....do.....	82 92	Santee Sioux agency, Nebr. Yankton agency, Dak.
Speigelberg, Willi			
Cramer, N. J.			
Lawrence, John			

APPENDIX A—Continued.

Names.		Prices.
TRANSPORTATION.		
Brunswick, Marcus.	From New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Saint Louis to the Los Pinos agency, Colo.	\$0 00
	From New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Saint Louis to Fort Defiance, N. Mex.	10 1/2
	From New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore to Camp Apache and Chiricahua agencies, Ariz.	11
Lord & Williams.	And from same points to the San Carlos agency, Ariz.	12
	From New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore to Sioux City, Iowa.	75
McCaun, D. J.	From New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore to Omaha, Nebr.	30
	From New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore to Green River, Wyo.	30
	From New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore to Kansas City, Mo.	50
	From New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore to Cheyenne, Wyo., or Sidney, Nebr.	1 05
	From Chicago to Cheyenne, Wyo., or Sidney, Nebr.	1 02
	From Sioux City to Cheyenne, Wyo., or Sidney, Nebr.	1 31
	From Saint Paul to Cheyenne, Wyo., or Sidney, Nebr.	1 76
	From New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore to Shoshone and Bannack agency, Wyo.	5 80
	From Chicago to Shoshone and Bannack agency, Wyo.	5 45
	From Saint Paul to Shoshone and Bannack agency, Wyo.	5 40
	From Sioux City to Shoshone and Bannack agency, Wyo.	5 10
	From Brian, Wyo., or Green River, Wyo., to Shoshone and Bannack agency, Wyo.	2 20
Speigelberg Bros.	From New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore to Red Cloud agency.	2 70
	From New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore to Spotted Tail agency.	2 75
	From Cheyenne, Wyo., or Sidney, Nebr., to Red Cloud agency.	1 65
	From Cheyenne, Wyo., or Sidney, Nebr., to Spotted Tail agency.	1 75
	From New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore to White River agency, Colo.	8 80
	From Rawlins Station, Union Pacific Railroad, to White River agency, Colo.	5 00
	From New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore to Carter Station, Union Pacific Railroad.	3 80
	From New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore to Uintah Valley agency, Utah.	7 70
	From Carter's Station, Union Pacific Railroad, to Uintah Valley agency, Utah.	3 90
	From Saint Louis, Mo., to the Cheyenne, Arapahoe, Kiowa, and Wichita agency.	9 45
	From Kansas City, Mo., to the Cheyenne, Arapahoe, Kiowa, and Wichita agency.	2 00
	From New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Saint Louis to the Mesquero Apache agency, N. Mex., (Fort Stanton).	08 1/2
	From New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Saint Louis to the Southern Apache agency, N. Mex., (oj o cal-ente).	10 1/2
	From New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Saint Louis, to the Cimarron agency, N. Mex.	08
	From New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Saint Louis to the Abiquiu agency, (Tierra Amarilla), N. Mex.	08
	From Sioux City to Santee agency.	35
	From Sioux City to Ponca agency.	40
	From Sioux City to Yankton agency.	50
Woolworth, C. D.	From Sioux City to Fort Randall.	60
	From Sioux City to Brule agency.	80
	From Sioux City to Cheyenne agency.	1 10
	From Sioux City to Standing Rock.	1 20
	From Sioux City to Fort Berthold.	1 40
	From Sioux City to Fort Peck.	2 00

APPENDIX A—Continued.

Names,		Prices.
Woolworth, C. D.	From New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore to Sioux City per 100 pounds.	\$0 80
	From New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore to Santee agency	1 15
	From New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore to Ponca agency	1 20
	From New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore to Yankton agency	1 30
	From New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore to Crow agency, Mont.	6 05
	From New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore to Blackfeet agency, Mont.	4 55
	From New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore to Fort Belknap agency, Mont.	4 55
	From Chicago and Saint Paul to Sioux City	4 40
	From New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore to Standing Rock agency	1 30
	From New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore to Cheyenne River agency	1 30
	From New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore to Fort Berthold agency	1 30
	From New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore to Crow Creek agency	1 20
	From New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore to Fort Peck agency	1 75
	From Saint Paul, Minn., to Standing Rock agency	1 10
	From Saint Paul, Minn., to Crow Creek agency	1 10
	From Saint Paul, Minn., to Cheyenne River and Fort Berthold agencies	1 20
	From Saint Paul, Minn., to Fort Peck agency	1 60
	From Chicago to Standing Rock agency	1 30
	From Chicago to Cheyenne River, Fort Berthold, and Crow Creek agencies	1 40
	From Chicago to Fort Peck agency	1 80
	From New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore to Du Luth	50
	From New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore to Red Cliff	60
	From New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore to Brainerd, Minn.	80
	From New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore to Audubon, Minn.	1 00
	From New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore to Morris, Minn.	1 25

Northern Pacific Railroad Company, by G. W.
Cass, receiver.

APPENDIX B.

The following extracts (the italics being our own) from the testimony given before the commission to investigate affairs at the Red Cloud agency, by J. W. Bosler, (Report, 351-371,) Seth Mabry, (Report, 530-533,) and James F. Ellison, (Report, 522-525,) will throw light on the methods pursued by those parties, substantiating the conclusions arrived at in the text.

From testimony of J. W. Bosler.

Q. What had Foreman to do when he made this contract; that is, when he made the bid?—A. Nothing at all.

Q. Was it understood between him and you that if he got the contract there was to be some interest between you?—A. Well, he bid to make money on it.

Q. What was paid him to assign the contract?—A. He had an interest.

Q. How much of an interest?—A. I would not like to answer that question.

Q. What other persons besides you and Paxton have direct, possible, or contingent profits in that contract of 1874?—A. Mr. A. H. Wilder, of Saint Paul, Minn., Mr. J. T. Baldwin, of Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Mr. D. W. C. Wheeler, of New York. These are the only parties.

Q. Was this Foreman contract transferred to you or to Mr. Paxton?—A. It was transferred to Mr. Paxton by the approval of the Department, and the reason the contract was assigned to Mr. Paxton was because there was a heavy bond to be given, and I wanted to reserve myself for a bondsman. If it had not been for that, I would have had the contract myself. The sureties are Joseph and J. W. Bosler. That was done in order to give the bond ourselves, as it required a very heavy bond—\$150,000. I put the money into this contract, every dollar of it. I cannot say exactly that I put it in; I furnished it, but each one of these parties interested were to furnish money in proportion to their interest. I proposed to furnish the money at 10 per cent. interest, which they accepted. Nobody but myself has a dollar in the contract, except in the way of paying interest to me. *It is a loan to the company. The profits are divided. My brother gets whatever I pay him.* My object in the matter is to get the interest on my money.

Q. Mr. Bosler, can you give us information of the number of head of cattle you purchased on the contract of 1873, which were delivered to the two agencies we are investigating?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Can you give us the prices paid for those cattle?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And the amounts you received from the Government?—A. Yes, sir; and the amount of profit.

Q. Have you stated in your former examination what you paid for the cattle in 1873, 1874, and 1875?—A. Yes, sir; I stated about it as I told you. I will give you the exact price for every purchase. The general price was, I think, in the neighborhood of from \$11 to \$11.50 for cows, and \$17 to \$18 for steers, during last year; and this year \$12 to \$20 for most of them. There were some few cattle bought of Mabry and Millet that we paid \$12 for. We bought some beeves for \$18, but no cows for less than \$12. Those are the only two classes of cattle we bought.

Q. And this year I understand you purchased Mabry's cattle, in New York, at the time the contract was awarded?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. In whose name was the contract of 1873-'74?—A. A. H. Wilder, G. M. Dodge, and J. W. L. Slavens.

Q. Did they have contracts for the whole?—A. It was divided; Red Cloud and Whetstone agencies were awarded to Wilder; Yankton and Cheyenne River agencies to General Dodge, and Upper Missouri and Grand River agencies to J. W. L. Slavens.

Q. After the letting of the contracts to those different parties, was there a combination or partnership formed, so that in fact the whole contract was executed at one time?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How many interests were there in it?—A. The parties who had been awarded contracts, for instance, Dodge and Slavens, were on the Missouri River, and they were mixed up between the agencies there. They concluded they had better make one transaction of the whole thing. There would be a good deal of difficulty in securing herding-grounds, as there were but few places where cattle could be kept, so these parties formed a copartnership for their mutual convenience, or, in other words, *pooled all three contracts.*

Q. Did you go into that combination?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. In what proportion?—A. That is going into private matters. May I ask what is the object of the question?

Q. Is there any reason why you should not answer it?—A. O, no; there is no reason why I should not answer it, except that it would involve the statement of my private business matters. Still, I have no objection to answering it. I was not in New York at the time; I did not attend the letting of the contract. I sent in a bid, but I was not there myself. After the awards were made, Mr. Slavens came to see me, and asked me to assist him in filling his contract. I made an arrangement with him to do it, and I took it off his hands, so far as the work of filling it was concerned. Some time after that I went to New York, and saw Mr. Wilder and General Dodge, and they agreed to place the whole matter in my hands. We entered into a business arrangement by which I should fill the contract.

Q. You became a party interested in the contract?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you furnish any portion of the capital?—A. Yes, sir; I furnished all the capital—that was the consideration that let me into it—or rather loaned it to the company.

Q. Was there any assignment of the contract, or was it merely sublet?—A. No, sir; there was no assignment; I merely acted as agent for these parties to do the work for them. I had about one-half interest in the contract, except the Slavens part of it. I gave him a specified interest in that portion of it.

Q. Did you have any arrangement with the men who got the contract before the letting?—A. None whatever. I don't think I had ever seen Mr. Wilder but once before that in my life.

Q. Did Mr. Wheeler have an interest in the contract?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. I did not understand you to mention his name with the others?—A. He was not a bidder.

Q. Baldwin had an interest with Dodge?—A. He was in their firm, I believe. Baldwin & Dodge was the name of their business firm.

Q. I suppose there was an assignment, and you filled the contract in your own name?—A. Any assignment would have to be approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

Q. That would exonerate the original contractor?—A. Yes, sir. As there has been a good deal said on this subject, I desire to say here that all arrangements for my filling these contracts of other people have been purely of a business character. *There have been no combinations of any kind. The arrangements have been generally made after the contracts have been awarded, each party at the bidding trying to be successful. Whoever did not get a contract would do the next best thing he could. So far as Mr. Wheeler is concerned in this matter, I went into a business operation with him some years ago, in which it was necessary to have somebody to assist to furnish capital. There was a large amount of money needed. As there were no others but us in it at that time, we still kept up the business arrangement. That was all there was about it. As to the arrangement with General Dodge and Mr. Baldwin, we were competitors for about five years in bidding, and always pretty close bidders, and we finally agreed to bid together and make a business arrangement of it. As to the arrangement with Mr. Wilder, I never saw him to speak to him about contracts until after the contracts for Red Cloud and Spotted Tail agencies had been awarded to him in 1873-'74; and then I made a business arrangement with him, to take an interest in the contract, and assist him in filling it. I had been in that business for some fifteen years in that country, and I was familiar with it, while he was not. It really was my business, and I could carry it out better than he could.*

Dodge and I have been interested since the contract of 1872-'73, or the first contract awarded to him, whenever that was. I have given the names of parties that I am interested with. They may have business partners, but the only parties I am accountable to, or who are accountable to me, are the parties I have mentioned.

Q. Are you now, and have you been for the last three years, a contractor with the Indian Department in your own name?—A. Yes; this year and last year.

Q. Contractor for what?—A. Beef at Fort Berthold. I have not always been awarded contracts, because I have generally bid very high. My bid this year was \$2.95 per hundred pounds. There was one thing I do not wish you to lose sight of, namely, that when I bid on these contracts I try to get the best price I can, as a business transaction; and as there are very few bidders, I sometimes bid pretty high and take the chances that there may be none who will bid lower.

Q. What was your bid last year—1874?—A. I think it was only \$2.60; I don't remember the exact figures.

Q. You filled the contract at \$2.30 and one-thirtieth?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And you filled the contract this year at \$2.46?—A. Yes, sir. That is one of the business chances I take in bidding, that there might be none who would bid less than

\$2.95, and I would get it at \$2.95. There was very little bidding under that figure, and there are only *two or three parties who bid on these contracts*.

Q. Why is that?—A. Because they are not familiar with the business. There is a party in Leavenworth, Kans., who have always been regular bidders; and this year a Texas party came in and bid. Then the Leavenworth party was the only opposition I had.

Q. Can you explain the reason why this bidding is confined to so few persons?—A. Well, yes; I think I can. In the first place, it takes a large amount of ready capital to fill a contract of this magnitude, and most of the people who have got money are engaged in some other business, and have not the ready cash to purchase so many cattle. I don't mean to say that they have not money enough to do it, but that they have their capital employed in some other enterprise, and these contracts are generally bid on by parties living in the West. There are very few persons living there who can fill so large a contract.

Q. Are you obliged to pay cash for them?—A. Well, we always do it. I never paid (sic) a dollar's worth in any other way but for cash.

Q. Cash on delivery?—A. Cash on delivery.

Q. I want to know, Mr. Bosler, whether or not the part of the machinery by which a few persons can control the bidding is the expenditure of money to keep other men out of the competition?—A. Well, be a little more explicit in your question; expenditure of money in what way?

Q. I want to know whether you have expended money to keep down competition?—A. Not a dollar.

Q. Do you know of its being done?—A. No, sir; I don't think there is a possibility of its being done; I don't see why it would be done; a party bidding has no knowledge of the amount of competition *until the bids are opened*, to buy up parties before the contract is awarded.

Q. Suppose the bids are all in and about being opened, and you find a man who is the lowest bidder and entitled to the contract, have you ever known that man to be hired to fail to comply with the requirements of the contract?—A. Never.

Q. It is a fact that a good many such bidders drop out for some reasons, is it not?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you know what is the reason why they do it?—A. The particular reason is this: There are parties who put in bids with the expectation of some one giving them something to drop out—buying them off, thinking that they may happen to drop in at such places that their bid will be valuable to some one who wants to fill the contract while they have no idea of filling it; and my idea is that the intention of the Department was to prevent that, and so provided that no contract should be filled by any other parties than the contractor, without the written consent of the Secretary of the Interior, to confine it to *bona-fide* bidders.

Q. Do you know yourself of any such person having succeeded in making money by dropping out?—A. No, sir.

Q. Have you ever paid any in such a way?—A. Never a dollar.

Q. But still your judgment is that it is the practice of these parties to make somebody pay them?—A. Yes; it often happens that when proposals are invited nobody responds, and in other cases *there is some informality about the bidding*; and if it occurs in some place where they thought they might possibly succeed in bleeding somebody, they would make their appearance. You will find a good many bids dated New York City; but the bidders never make their appearance, and it is never known who they are.

From testimony of Seth Mabry.

Q. The original contract was made with you, I believe?—A. Yes, sir, this season; but he has the filling of it. I just made an arrangement with him in New York to carry out the contract and deliver the cattle.

Q. Was this transfer of the contract made with the permission of the Interior Department?—A. There was no transfer; it was merely an agreement that I was to do one portion of the work and he another.

Q. As I understand it, then, the contract is still in your name, but Mr. Bosler was just a partner in the concern?—A. He took an interest with me after the contract was awarded me. The bid was put in in my own name, with a view of filling it myself, provided nobody wanted any interest with me in it. There are three of us in it.

Q. What portion were you to do?—A. The work that was allotted me was to get up these cattle and furnish them here at certain prices. I agreed to furnish a certain amount of cattle at certain prices. *We just made a contract in New York, by which he became partner in the contract, for a consideration which it would not be necessary for me to name now in the matter.* Of course, I was well posted as to the work that was to be done outside, and he would be better able to manage the delivery of the cattle. He knows more about the range. I have never been at these agencies. A man who has been in

the business three or four years is better able to control it and manage it than a new man, because his camps are all organized for managing it.

Q. When Mr. Bosler takes receipts for the delivery of cattle, does he take them in his own name or in yours?—A. The vouchers are given in my name, but he has a power of attorney to receive them and manage the business.

Q. What number of cattle did you furnish?—A. About 24,000 head. Mr. Bosler was the purchaser of the balance of the cattle.

Q. Instead of delivering 24,000 head to the Government, you delivered them to Bosler?—A. Not exactly. I delivered them to the company; I put them in as so much money; I sold them to myself. I agreed to furnish 25,000 head of cattle of a certain class, and he was to take them at certain specified prices and go ahead and buy the rest which would be wanted. My interest was in selling that amount of cattle. After I had got my cattle all together, I had not quite 24,000.

Q. Let me see if I understand you. Instead of delivering the cattle to the Government, you delivered them to the company, composed of yourself, Mr. Bosler, and other individuals. They pay you a fixed sum per head for the cattle so delivered; and this company undertake to fill that contract with the Government?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did Mr. Bosler pay you any consideration for the contract?—A. *I do not know, as we are not trying this case now, that that would make any feature in it; but I do not know that an answer to that question would give the information which you gentlemen want to get at, at all. I am quite willing to answer any question as to the quality and number of cattle, but as regards the private arrangements between myself and Mr. Bosler, I don't think that that is material.*

From testimony of James F. Ellison.

Q. Are you interested in the contract which Mr. Mabry took for supplying the Government with beef-cattle at this agency?—A. Well, if we had retained the contract, I guess I would have been, but the contract was not retained, and I don't know anything about it. I have no interest in it. The cattle which we turn in for Mr. Bosler he pays us for, and we have no interest in the contract whatever. The firm has no interest whatever.

Q. About what did you get, on an average, for the cattle which you sold this year?—A. Well, I can answer that question very easily. We got \$12 for cows and \$20 for beeves. When I say "we," I mean the firms of Mabry & Dewese.

Q. Have you any idea of the proportion of cows and steers there is in an ordinary herd?—A. There is about one-fourth cows. We don't want to drive that many, but we frequently have to do it. They will not average more than one-fourth. Mabry and myself, and the other firms, have sold to Bosler 24,000 cattle this year.

Q. What did you receive last year for your cattle?—A. We received last year *eleven dollars for cows and eighteen dollars for steers, and twelve and twenty dollars this year.*

Q. Were twelve and twenty the prevailing market-rates when you made the contract with Mr. Bosler?—A. There were no prevailing rates; no sales had been made.

Q. These cattle you delivered to Bosler were contracted for in New York?—A. Yes, sir. Mr. Bosler advanced us \$30,000 on that contract. When we made the contract I did not know anything about it. Mabry said he did, and we got \$30,000.

Q. Did I understand you to say that you were interested in the contract with Mr. Mabry made with the Government?—A. Well, I would have been interested if we had carried out the contract. I had one-fourth interest in case we furnished the cattle. I was not present when the contract was made with Mr. Bosler. I don't know whether the contract with Mr. Mabry was put in writing.

Q. Would it be a fair question to ask you, Mr. Ellison, what you give for these cattle in Texas?—A. Yes, sir; I think it would. I never keep anything back. Cows cost \$7 and beeves \$12 down there. We generally pay in specie, and there is a difference between specie and currency there of 10 per cent., which would make it about \$8 and \$13, respectively, for cows and beeves in currency.

Q. Have you ever had any statement that would enable you to form an estimate of what is the annual expense of keeping these cattle north of the Platte during the year of their being delivered to the agency and the Government?—A. Well, I have never formed any estimate of that. Mr. Bosler keeps cattle in very large herds. We can drive cattle from Texas for about \$2 per head, in large herds. In small herds it would cost more. When we first commenced driving cattle from Texas, the expense was double, and even treble, what it is now for each head, but since then the whole thing has been systematized.

PAWNEES—REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS ROBERTS AND SMITH.

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 9, 1875.

SIR: The undersigned members of the board respectfully present the following report of their action in connection with the removal of the Pawnee Indians from their reservation in Nebraska to the Indian Territory, their establishment upon their new reservation, and subsistence temporarily until provision shall be made therefor by Congress.

The following correspondence of the honorable Secretary of the Interior and Commissioner of Indian Affairs will explain our connection with this subject:

“DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
“OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
“Washington, D. C., March 6, 1875.

“SIR: I have the honor to invite your attention to an emergency which has arisen in the Indian service.

“There are three thousand Pawnee Indians in Nebraska who have heretofore subsisted partly by buffalo-hunting and partly by such crops as they have learned to raise upon their reservation. For two years past they have entirely failed in their efforts to procure buffalo, and were thus reduced to exclusive dependence upon their crop, which last summer was completely destroyed by grasshoppers, leaving these Indians with but a small annuity-fund of about ten dollars per capita with which to be maintained for a whole year.

“In these circumstances the Pawnees in council, attended by their agent and superintendent and a delegation of Friends, who have these Indians in charge, voted to remove to the Indian Territory, and asked permission to send the males of their tribe in advance, in order to select a country and break ground in preparation for the coming of the women and children and aged persons of the tribe. They also voted to request the Government to sell their reservation, and to expend such portion of their funds as might be necessary for their removal and establishment in the Indian Territory.

“In view of the straitened condition of the Pawnees, and the desirableness of concentrating Indians in the Indian Territory so far as possible, permission was granted by the Department for these Indians to proceed thither, where they would probably be able to make a living during the winter by hunting buffalo, and would be on the ground ready to commence improvements upon their new homes in early spring.

“Appropriate legislation to carry out this arrangement was recommended to Congress, which, having been referred to the Indian Committee of the Senate, was reported back with favorable recommendations; but in the crowded condition of legislation at the close of the session, it was found impossible to call up the bill before the expiration of Congress.

“As the result, the Department finds itself with these 3,000 Pawnees, a large portion of them already in the Indian Territory, a selection of country having been made in the forks of the Arkansas and Cimmarron Rivers, on land ceded to the United States for Indian occupation by the Cherokees, but without any means either to procure subsistence, or to commence preparing their homes, or to return to Nebraska, or to live in Nebraska, if they were returned.

“I respectfully suggest that this emergency is so decisive and well defined as to come within the discretion necessarily lodged with the President, by which authority may be granted the Department to make the necessary expenditure to provide for these Pawnees until provision can be made according to law, and would respectfully recommend that the matter be laid before the President for such direction as he may see fit to give in the premises.

“The expenditure thus required will probably not exceed one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and will probably be from twenty-five to fifty thousand dollars less than that amount. The lands which the Pawnees relinquished in moving to the Indian Territory are worth three or four times that amount.

“Owing to the actual hunger of these Indians and the importance of their being at work immediately upon their new reservation, I respectfully request that action may be taken upon this matter at as early a date as practicable.

“Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

“EDW. P. SMITH,
“Commissioner.

• “The Honorable SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.”

“DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
“Washington, March 12, 1875.

“SIR: The destitute condition of the Pawnee Indians, and the necessity of providing them with subsistence, which was the subject of your report of the 6th instant, having

been represented to the President, he authorizes that the Department incur an expenditure for their relief until provision can be made for them according to law.

"You are, therefore, hereby instructed, in pursuance of the Executive authority, to make the necessary arrangements for the relief of the Pawnees; the expenditure thus to be incurred not to exceed \$150,000, provided the necessary supplies can be procured in open market of parties who would be willing to furnish what may be required *without entering into contract*, and await the action of Congress, upon estimates to be approved by this Department, and submitted to Congress for an appropriation to meet the payment of the indebtedness.

"Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

"B. R. COWEN,
"Acting Secretary.

"The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS."

"DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
"Washington, D. C., April 2, 1875.

"SIR: Referring to your communication under date of March 12, 1875, authorizing the expenditure of \$150,000 for the relief of the Pawnees by purchase of supplies in open market, I have the honor to inclose herewith copy of proposal from R. C. Kerens, of Arkansas, to furnish beef on the hoof, required by these Indians, at \$3.88 per hundred, gross weight, and flour, delivered at Wichita, at \$4.86 per hundred. It is known to the Department that there are no funds applicable for the subsistence of these Indians who have lately removed to the Indian Territory, and that parties furnishing supplies for them do so with the understanding that they will receive no compensation for the same until an appropriation shall have been made, and the uncertainty involved in the transaction will operate, of course, to increase the cost of articles. It is difficult for the Office, at this distance, to judge as to what is expedient and right in the matter, and I respectfully recommend that the secretary of the board of Indian commissioners be requested, if compatible with his other duties, to visit the Indian Territory and take in charge the procuring of supplies necessary for the Pawnees, or such portion of them as he may deem best, and that this proposition of Mr. Kerens be submitted for his consideration in connection with any others that may be offered.

"Your early consideration of this subject is respectfully requested.

"Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

"EDW. P. SMITH,
"Commissioner.

"The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR."

"DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
"Washington, D. C., April 5, 1875.

"SIR: I have considered your report of the 2d instant submitting a proposition made by R. C. Kerens, of Kansas, to furnish beef and flour for subsistence of the Pawnee Indians in the Indian Territory, and await an appropriation by Congress for payment.

"In your letter of the 6th ultimo, the destitution of the Pawnees was reported to the Department, with the recommendation that the President be consulted with reference to their condition and as to the proper mode of relief to be adopted, in the absence of an appropriation, or authority of law for the purchase of supplies.

"In compliance with said recommendation the subject was laid before the President, who authorized the Department to make the necessary arrangement to relieve the Pawnees, provided the necessary supplies could be procured in open market, of parties who would furnish the same, without entering into contract, and await action by Congress, upon estimates to be submitted for an appropriation.

"In pursuance of executive authority you were, on the 12th ultimo, instructed to incur an indebtedness not to exceed the sum of \$150,000.

"The Department cannot, under existing law, make a contract or purchase in the absence of an appropriation for the purpose.

"No contract or purchase on behalf of the United States shall be made unless the same is authorized by law or is under an appropriation adequate to its fulfillment." (1 Revised Statutes, section 3732, act of March 2, 1871.)

"The said act clearly inhibits the making of contracts or purchases by this Department.

"Under the circumstances, and in view of the peculiar situation and necessitous condition of the Pawnees, you are authorized to make arrangements for their relief and subsistence, provided you can find any parties who, in the interests of humanity, will furnish to this suffering tribe the supplies required for the purpose, and who will be willing to rely upon the justice of a Christian Government for payment.

"It is to be distinctly understood that, under the authority herein conferred, no obligation will be assumed by the Government, nor any responsibility; nor, by implication, is any promise of payment to be inferred from it. Information may, however, be

imparted that the Department will submit to Congress, at the next session, an estimate of appropriation required to defray the expenses incident to the care and subsistence of the Pawnee Indians in the Indian Territory.

"To your judgment is left the adoption of the best plan for accomplishing the object contemplated. If it be deemed inexpedient or impracticable for Superintendent Hoag or Agent Richards to effect a satisfactory arrangement for procuring supplies for the Pawnees under the authority hereby granted, and the business demands that the secretary of the Board of Indian Commissioners be designated for the purpose, the propriety of employing his services is left to your discretion.

"Before taking any action in the premises you are requested to confer with Friend B. Rush Roberts in relation to the subject.

"Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

"C. DELANO,
"Secretary.

"COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS."

"DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
"OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
"Washington, D. C., April 9, 1875.

"SIR: From copies of correspondence herewith inclosed, being letters of March 9 and April 2, of this Office to the honorable Secretary of the Interior, and replies thereto by the honorable Secretary under date of March 12 and April 5, you will learn the embarrassed position in which this Department is placed relative to the Pawnee Indians and their necessitous condition.

"In accordance with the authority given by the honorable Secretary in his letter of April 5, I desire to secure the aid of your board in procuring supplies for the Pawnees, sufficient to meet their necessities until July 1, 1876. These supplies will consist mainly of beef on the hoof, flour or corn or both, coffee, sugar, clothing-materials, farming implements, hardware for use in the erection of buildings, a saw-mill and a few wagons and work-oxen. Provision should also be made, if feasible, by which the services of a sufficient force of employes can be procured to erect temporary dwellings for the employes of the agency, to put a saw-mill into operation and to aid the Indians in the erection of their houses.

"From the inclosed copy of the appropriation bill, you will learn the exact amount of funds which can be used for the Pawnees during the coming year, and with their consent, in any form most for their benefit, except for those in payment for employes and schools.

"It is desirable that you should visit their present agency in Nebraska and on the spot consider and decide the question as to when it will be most feasible to move that portion of the tribe still remaining in Nebraska to the Indian Territory. This decision will affect somewhat the amount of supplies necessary to be provided at their new home, and also be important as tending to quiet an uneasiness on the part of the Indians.

"Two opposite considerations bear upon the question of the time of this removal: First, if it is not made during the coming fall it cannot without transportation by rail, involving heavy expense, be made early enough in the following spring for them to put in a crop in the new country next year. Second. If the removal is made this fall it necessarily exposes some of the older persons and the children to their first winter in the Territory with inadequate shelter and provision, and also involves an additional expense of cost of supplies, while if they remain in Nebraska through the winter they will mainly subsist on what they may expect to raise during the coming summer. Also, if they remained in Nebraska the school could probably be continued with profitable results during the entire winter, and the agency buildings would be protected by actual occupation until the Pawnee lands in Nebraska can be sold.

"By the act of 1872, a sale of 50,000 acres of Pawnee lands was authorized, but under such restrictions as have hitherto operated to prevent the sale. I have learned informally that it is possible that a colony of Mennonites, represented by John F. Funk, at Elkhart, Indiana, may possibly consider the question of purchasing these lands, and I would suggest, as bearing quite directly upon the question before you, that en route to Nebraska you have an interview with this gentleman.

"If the 50,000 acres, for whose sale provision is made in the act above named, can be sold, the pressing wants of the Pawnees will be mainly provided for; but, owing to the delay involved in procuring the appraisement and sale of the lands by advertisement, a temporary provision must be made, even if this is likely to be successful.

"As to the probability of payment for supplies and services which may be procured for the Pawnees, I have to say that, in addition to the moral obligation which will be upon the Government, and which will be urged upon Congress in its full force by the Department and by the President, the Pawnees are in possession of lands which, at a moderate valuation, are worth at least \$300,000, upon which this indebtedness incurred in their behalf will be a first lien. This fact will of itself remove many difficulties in

procuring a future appropriation, because the amount to be appropriated will be sure to be reimbursed by the sale of Indian lands instead of being a donation to the Indians.

"Mr. B. Rush Roberts, a member of your board, has been requested, if possible, to assist you in this matter, and it is hoped that he will be able to accompany you to Nebraska and Saint Louis, or such other point as you may find most suitable, for making arrangements to meet the necessities of the Pawnees.

"Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

"EDW. P. SMITH,
"Commissioner.

"Hon. F. H. SMITH,
"Secretary Board Indian Commissioners, Washington, D. C."

Proposed sale of land.

In accordance with the request of the honorable Commissioner, we proceeded to Chicago, and on the 14th of April last held a consultation with Mr. John F. Funk, of Elkhart, Indiana, who met us there in compliance with our telegraphic invitation. As the representative of a portion of the Mennonite organization in this county, Mr. Funk expressed a warm desire that the portion of the Pawnee reservation authorized by law to be offered for sale should be made available for the exclusive occupation of colonies of that faith coming to this country; and after full consideration of the subject, proposed, as the most available means of securing the land for that purpose, to communicate immediately with representative men of the organization, with a view of forming a joint stock company, with capital sufficient to make the purchase, in accordance with the terms of the law.

Removal of the Pawnees.

We next proceeded to the reservation in Nebraska and consulted with the chiefs and head-men of the Pawnees remaining at the agency.

The Indians were united and urgent in their desire to abandon their reservation and join their brethren in the Indian Territory at once. To comply with their request seemed wholly inadmissible. Several hundred acres of wheat had already been sown, and the arrangements for cultivating in all about two thousand acres of the reservation were in an advanced state of progress. The manual-labor school, with its excellent buildings and corps of teachers, would have to be disbanded for probably a year to come, and much inconvenience and suffering on the part of the aged, sick, and infirm would occur in case of immediate removal to a point at which no preparation for their reception would, for a considerable period, be made. After a protracted explanation and discussion the Indians were informed that the Department would positively not assent to their removal earlier than the coming fall, after their crops have been harvested.

The commissioners then left the council-room; but were subsequently requested to return, and were informed by the Indians of their assent to the proposition to remain until fall.

On the 19th we returned to Omaha and met Barclay White, superintendent of Indian affairs, who was requested by telegraph to accompany us to the reservation, but in consequence of his absence at another agency, failed to receive the dispatch.

Among the reasons given by the Indians for their immediate removal, was their continual apprehension of attack from the Sioux, the absence of nearly all the able-bodied men of the tribe, leaving them without means of defense against even a small hostile party.

After consultation with the superintendent, although no cause was seen for apprehending any immediate danger, it was deemed prudent to address a communication to the military headquarters at Omaha requesting the detail of a small force of troops within such proximity to the agency as would afford protection to the Pawnees remaining, from their hereditary enemies.

Attention was also called in the communication to the material injury already done by the removal of large quantities of wood from the reservation, from one to two hundred wagon-loads a day being often taken away by trespassing, and the military authorities having failed to respond to the previous request of the Department to afford protection in this regard.

In accordance with our request a company of infantry was subsequently detailed by General Crook for service at the agency and remained during the most of the summer. Only one occasion occurred for their intervention, which will be understood from the following extract of the report of Barclay White, superintendent, concerning the affair:

"NORTHERN SUPERINTENDENCY, OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,
"Omaha, Neb., Ninthmonth 3, 1875.

"RESPECTED FRIEND: * * * * On the 23d ultimo, about daybreak, the wife of Eagle, head chief of the Ske-dec band of Pawnees, was shot and instantly killed. She

was near her lodge, and the party committing the murder was sheltered from view by tall corn, and escaped unobserved. Agent Burgess reports that Captain Wheaton's company "was stationed in sight, within a few hundred yards of the point of attack. It was not only inadequate for protection, but of no practicable benefit whatever against Indians." On the 30th ultimo, soon after sunrise, fourteen Indians, supposed to be Sioux, rode out of a ravine and shot four balls into Kow-is-a, or Charley Fighting Bear, a Pawnee school-boy, fifteen years of age, who was herding Pawnee horses, killing him on the spot. This occurred about forty rods from the agency-carpenter's dwelling-house. The murderers then chased the horses, but not succeeding in capturing them, left. An active chase by Pawnees was given them for several miles, but they had fleet horses, were better armed than the Pawnees, and escaped.

"Very respectfully, thy friend,

"BARCLAY WHITE,

"*Superintendent Indian Affairs.*

"Hon. F. H. SMITH,

"*Secretary, Washington, D. C.*"

Purchase of supplies.

We reached Saint Louis the morning of the 21st, and Agent Burgess, coming from the east, joined us in the evening of that day. The matter of the purchase of supplies was, while in Chicago, laid fully before Col. C. G. Hammond, late a member of the Board of Indian Commissioners, who informed us that it would be impossible to negotiate with business men in that city on the terms we were authorized to offer, and that, in his judgment, the only plan that would be successful was to find parties who, as a matter of speculation, would, for a sufficient consideration, be willing to risk the delay or failure of Congress to make the required appropriation.

J. V. Farwell, also late a member of our board, and others, were consulted, without affording any light upon the subject of our proposed purchases.

In Omaha, arrangements were made with F. D. Cropes for the supply of such wagons and agricultural implements as are required, to be delivered by him at Coffeerville, Kans., upon terms regarded as favorable.

In Saint Louis, much reliance was placed upon the advice and co-operation of Mr. Robert Campbell, whose previous familiarity with the Indian service, as a member of our board, and otherwise, and whose great business experience and acquaintance in Saint Louis, it was believed would enable him to place us in communication with parties willing to furnish the supplies required, and trust to the justice of the Government for re-imbursement.

Mr. Campbell, after learning of our presence in the city, called upon us, and expressed his readiness to render any assistance in his power; but, learning fully the conditions under which purchases were to be made, stated in most positive terms that any effort to procure the supplies required in that city would be hopeless, and in response to the inquiry as to what could be done to relieve these suffering people, made the same reply in substance as Colonel Hammond in Chicago, that our only hope was to find parties who would, as a speculation, undertake for a liberal margin of profit to furnish the goods.

In connection with Agent Burgess we then visited several of the prominent business houses of the city, but in each instance the parties declined to sell, for any price, new goods upon the terms offered. Arrangements were, however, made with A. S. Pilticren Machine Company for the supply of a saw-mill and engine, partly second-hand, but in excellent condition, upon reasonable terms.

Proposals were received for flour, beef, and other supplies, but at rates which we, on our own responsibility, were unwilling to accept. We thereupon returned to Washington and reported verbally to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs the results of our effort, and asked him to relieve us from further responsibility in the matter. The Commissioner stated that he knew of no other means more likely to accomplish the object sought, and as the necessity was urgent to make immediate provision for subsisting the Indians and carrying on the work required for their establishment on the new reservation, he desired us to continue our efforts until all needed arrangements should be perfected.

Acting upon this request, we have from time to time authorized the purchase of supplies and materials and the employment of labor on the best terms we have been able to obtain. We submit herewith a statement of the prices paid, with an approximate estimate of the expenditure already incurred.

During the month of October, in connection with Thomas H. Matthews, of Baltimore, one of the committee appointed by the Baltimore yearly meeting of Friends, we made a second visit to the Pawnees. The following extract from the report of the Friends' committee states clearly what has been accomplished for this people during the present season, and is adopted by us for the purposes of this report:

At the close of the last fiscal year, 6th month 30th, 1875, the day-schools were all

closed, and the industrial school on the 30th of the 9th month, and the salaries of the teachers and other employes appropriated to the purposes of feeding the Indians and making preparations for their final removal to the Indian Territory.

The Indians remaining (numbering between 400 and 500, most of whom are children, or old and infirm people) appear to have acted on the advice given them last spring by members of the Board of Indian Commissioners and their agent, to plant all the corn and vegetables they could, and gather their crops before departing south, that they might have food on their way down. Agent Burgess reports that most of the able-bodied men have worked well, and the farmer assures us that nearly all the labor in producing and gathering the large crops raised on the reservation the past summer has been performed by Indians; and the amount of dried squaw-corn and pumpkins which we saw stored in some of their lodges shows that they have not been idle. The products of the agency-farm, on about 600 acres, have all been reported or estimated to us, and from personal inspection we are inclined to believe that the corn is estimated considerably below what it will probably yield, as follows: Rye, 1,000 bushels; wheat, 5,000; corn, estimated, 5,000; potatoes, 1,700; oats, 2,000; and buckwheat, 34 bushels. About 50 tons of hay have also been cut. On a very moderate estimate, we think the products would be worth there at least \$5,000.

The results of this year's farming have been very gratifying to us, especially in comparison with the desolation and destitution of the agency about this time last year; and the more so that the Indian labor has brought this result, and that his muscles have been trained in the employment in which hereafter he must live or suffer. Horses and wagons have been purchased for the removal to the Indian Territory of the remnant of the tribe, and it is expected that all will be in readiness to start on or very soon after the 15th of the present month, and will be accompanied by Agent Burgess and wife, Julia Nichols, and Mariana Burgess. The latter two having been teachers in the industrial school, are now retained, to have care of the children, and as teachers of day-schools to be at once started on the new reservation; and probably to be re-instated when the new manual-labor school, now projected, can be built and put in operation.

We left Genoa on the morning of the 5th, accompanied by William Burgess, and Omaha on the 6th, by way of Kansas City, Lawrence, and Coffeerville, and after some detentions on our route, and 105 miles' travel by private conveyance, we reached the Pawnee agency, in the Indian Territory, about sundown on the evening of the 11th instant. On arriving in sight of the agency buildings, more than a mile from them, our eyes rested upon one of the most beautiful scenes we had witnessed in our whole journey. In the foreground were about twenty men, Indians and whites, with their teams and mowing-machines, busily engaged in cutting, raking, and stacking hay. In the distance the long row of new buildings, many of which were occupied, extending in a straight line on one side of the avenue for over half a mile in length, and the surrounding country for miles away dotted with the white tents of the Indians in their several villages, and the houses of the employes within a more limited circle, the beautifully-rolling prairie interspersed with belts and groves of timber, and the far-distant hills bounding the Cimmaron and Arkansas Rivers, the whole covered with a most luxuriant growth of grass, and seen in the light of the setting sun, constituted a picture which no pen could adequately describe. Our hearts were made to rejoice at the thrift and industry which we witnessed, as well as at the care that had been taken to keep everything neat and clean, so unlike an Indian village.

We must first pay a tribute to the good judgment displayed in the selection of the reservation, and secondly to the taste that has been exercised in the location of the many agency buildings now erected and to be erected around and on the spot intended for and constituting the headquarters of the tribe.

The Indians arrived too late in the summer on their new reservation to plant any crops for winter use, but we are informed that a majority of the able-bodied men have been laboring, and nearly all the balance have been desirous to be allowed to labor, but, for want of implements which they could use, were excluded from exercising whatever power and inclination they possessed in that direction. There have been twenty new buildings put up on the reservation, consisting of dwellings, shops, offices, &c., and a steam saw-mill, which is not yet covered, but is working well and cutting all the lumber that is required at present, and will no doubt soon have a stock on hand for future use. There have been about fifty white employes, mechanics, and laborers, besides thirty Indian laborers, employed on the farm and about the mill and shops on the reservation, and in making roads and bridges. Many of these employes are hired on the only terms that the agent was authorized or able to offer, i. e., to feed them, and they to rely upon an act of Congress to enable the Indians to realize funds from the sale of their lands in Nebraska, from which these laborers can be paid. And the whole tribe is being now fed and clothed on the same terms, relying on the justice of Congress to reimburse the parties furnishing supplies. Much labor has been performed by Indians in making roads and bridges for many miles across the prairie toward the Osage agency, through which all the supplies have to be wagoned 105 miles, at heavy cost.

A good substantial ferry-boat has been constructed, by which to cross the Arkansas River, on this road, and the ferry is used solely for the benefit of the tribe. No other travel on the route but that that communicates with the agency. About two hundred tons of hay have been cut and put up, and the farmer was still cutting and stacking when we left the agency. There were abundant crops of melons and pumpkins raised and consumed, or dried for winter use, during the present fall. There have been about three hundred acres of land broken, and one hundred and twenty-five acres seeded in wheat. Two ox-teams of three yokes each are employed most of the time in hauling logs to the saw-mill. In cutting and sawing the logs, Indians are found to be efficient helpers, as well as in farm-labor. Agent Burgess has, under proper authority, purchased twelve wagons and twenty-three head of horses, to enable him to remove the balance of the tribe from Nebraska, and these teams will add very much to the efficient working of the agency, in the erection of the agent's house and industrial school building, which it is proposed to commence at once, and to use the material, which is abundant on the reservation, for the purpose, namely, stone, lime, sand, lumber, and shingles; the hardware and glass constituting nearly all the material that will have to be purchased. Much more might be written on the great change which appears to have taken place among the Pawnees in the past year, but this report has already been lengthened out beyond our expectations, and we believe it will be better to await results than to anticipate them before the public. In conclusion, we think it right to express our appreciation of the services that have been rendered and continue to be rendered by Agent William Burgess and wife. It would be impossible for any one to appreciate their difficult position without paying a visit to the Indians of which they have the care. The duties of the agent under any circumstances are so varied that he can hardly hope to fulfill them without incurring more or less censure from those unacquainted with all the surroundings. Agent Burgess's position for the past year has been one of more than ordinary responsibility and labor, requiring unusual discernment as well as executive ability. In pursuance of the policy adopted by the Government in the removal of the Pawnees, Agent Burgess was detailed in the eleventh month last to explore parts of the Indian Territory, with a view to select a suitable location, which, with the consent of the headmen of the tribe, should be purchased for their future home. This trust was executed, after a long and arduous exploration of some five months, to the entire satisfaction of the Indians, and met with the entire approval of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and, in our judgment, formed from what we have seen and learned, is hardly equaled in its many advantages by any other settlement of Indians.

It will be apparent that immediate action by Congress is of great importance, both for the purpose of providing payment of the amounts already expended and for the permanent care of these Indians. Most of the persons employed in the erection of buildings, breaking ground, and for the various purposes required at the new reservation are in necessitous circumstances, and should be paid at the earliest practicable moment.

At the instance of the Friends, in whose especial care the Pawnees are, a bill was introduced into the last Congress providing for the sale of their reservation in Nebraska, the proceeds to be invested for the benefit of the Indians. Congress was asked to make an appropriation of \$300,000 for immediate use, to be re-imbursed from the proceeds of the sale of the lands. This reservation comprises three hundred thousand acres, located about a hundred miles west of the Missouri River, and in immediate proximity to the Union Pacific Railroad. Much of the land is very valuable, and the entire tract, disposed of on favorable terms, ought to realize three-quarters of a million dollars. It seems to us that the passage of a bill similar to that introduced in the last Congress is the proper measure of relief, and should be recommended to Congress for its early action.

F. H. SMITH.
B. RUSH ROBERTS.

Hon. CLINTON B. FISK,
Chairman Board of Indian Commissioners.

REPORT OF E. WHITTLESEY ON WHITE EARTH AGENCY.

SIR: I have the honor to report that, pursuant to your direction dated October 4 1875, and the request of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs dated October 6, 1875, I have visited White Earth reservation, Minn., and inspected the affairs of that agency. The special object of my visit is clearly stated in the following letter:

"DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
"OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
"Washington, D. C., October 6, 1875.

"SIR: I desire that you will visit the White Earth Indian reservation in Minnesota for the purpose of inquiring into the condition of affairs at that agency, with reference to the question raised by a petition of the Indians for a transfer of that agency from the care of the Episcopal Church to that of the Roman Catholic Church. The papers in the case, including two petitions and a copy of Office letter dated July 14, 1875, addressed to the Chippewa chiefs, and a letter from Bishop Whipple addressed to this Office, under date of September 2, 1875, contain all the official correspondence on this subject. You will please to inquire, first, whether the Indians have any ground of complaint touching the question of religious control under the administration of the present agent, and if so, whether this grievance arises from any action which the Episcopal Church has taken, or from the action of the agent which can be modified. Second. If grievances are found to exist, whether the proposed transfer, in accordance with the petition of these Indians, would secure the desired remedy.

"You will make a full inquiry into all matters bearing upon this question which will tend to give such information to the Office as to secure proper action in the premises.

"The original papers are referred to you, and you will please preserve and return them to this Office with your report on this subject.

"Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

"E. P. SMITH, *Commissioner*.

"General E. WHITTLESEY,
"Assistant Secretary Board Indian Commissioners, Washington, D. C."

The petitions referred to in the foregoing letter are as follows:

"OFFICE OF CATHOLIC COMMISSIONER FOR INDIAN MISSIONS,
"Washington, D. C., July 2, 1875.

"SIR: I have the honor to file herewith the petition of the Catholic Indians of the White Earth reservation, (accompanied by an abstract of the same,) and must request that it receive immediate attention. And I will again renew my application for this agency, and ask you to grant the earnest request of these Indians for the appointment of a Catholic agent.

"I am, sir, very respectfully,

"CHARLES EWING, *Commissioner*.

"Hon. COLUMBUS DELANO,
"Secretary of the Interior."

"To the honorable the Congress of the United States of America:

"We, the undersigned, chiefs of the Chippewa Indians, at White Earth reservation, would respectfully represent to your honorable body that we are all greatly dissatisfied with the course pursued by the present agent of the White Earth reservation, and desire the management of this agency transferred to the Roman Catholic Church.

"We make the request at the earnest entreaties of our respective bands, who unite with us in this petition.

"The reasons upon which our request is based are as follows:

"1st. Our present agent has uniformly used the most unjust discrimination in distributing our annuities and supplies, and has failed to pay over to us large sums of money that are rightfully our due.

"2d. We have never been consulted by him as to the manner in which the money left in his hands to be expended for our benefit should be laid out, and our rights have been violated in thus debarring us from having any voice in such matters.

"3d. Our people are suffering most severely, and are in great danger of losing their lives by freezing, as the clothing which should have been distributed among them has not been issued only in exceptional cases.

"4th. We have in many instances performed labor for the agency, for which we were to have been paid in supplies, and the supplies were issued; but, instead of their being considered by the agent as payment for labor, they stand charged to each individual Indian who drew them, as the books of the agent will show to-day.

"5th. We are all of the Catholic faith, and have greater confidence in that denomina-

tion than any other, and believe that our rights will be more respected and our interests better served by their management than they would under the management of any other sect or denomination.

"We would further show to your honorable body that we have been heretofore greatly imposed upon in the matter of papers purporting to be an expression of our feelings, such papers having fictitious signatures attached thereto; but in this instance our wishes are correctly expressed and our signatures are genuine and true, and we perfectly understand what we are doing.

"We would further call attention to the intention expressed in the policy of the President in giving the management of the several reservations to the respective churches that had most converts among the Indians on such reservation, and that a preference should be shown to that denomination first among the Indians interested.

"The Indians at White Earth were mostly members of bands who were formerly at Crow Wing, where we were under the spiritual guidance of the Catholic mission, established there in 1852, and our desire had always been to have a Catholic mission and agent with us.

"We therefore humbly petition your honorable body to grant us the relief asked for, and to take such steps as may be necessary to secure for us the removal of the present Episcopal management and place our reservation in the hands of the Roman Catholic Church, with the power to appoint an agent for this reservation vested in the right reverend bishop of Saint Paul, Thomas L. Grace, in whom we have unlimited confidence, and your petitioners will, as in duty bound, ever pray.

"We, the undersigned, chiefs and headmen and residents of White Earth, do hereby acknowledge ourselves to be of the Catholic faith. And, furthermore, do humbly request of our great father in Washington the removal of our present officials, and to install the same by the Catholic faith, to have the sole control of our agency.

"Signed by 114 Indians and 108 half-breeds.

"The following papers are reasons given by the various chiefs and head braves, and also notes taken and translated of speeches made by many of them at a great council held by them on January 2, 1875. The signing of names took place principally on January 24, 1875.

"I don't want any other preacher or Protestant to stay here. I want a Catholic priest to stay here. I want you to help me. I have got any my own house in reservation; the agent don't want to give me a house; he don't do it what I ask for it, because I am Catholic.

"IGNATIUS HOLE-IN-THE-DAY,

"Son of the deceased 'Hole-in-the-day,' and principal chief of the Chippewa Nation."

This was written by himself.

The following are the reasons why we make the complaints and petition to our great father:

"The reason why we decide to change our religion is because we are not satisfied of the manner of our treatment by our ministers, and having such as are charitable, we flock to them and are decided to uphold them, and since our former ministers have so much stolen of our money, we have been compelled to leave them and pursue our of present course.

"We desire to have such in charge of us as will make us live. The one who is daily intrusted by his God, that is the Catholic, this is the one whom we desire to have as our ruler and father. Every one here knows what we have to say to be the truth. We have never failed to believe what our former ministers have instructed us, but they have so annulled us into quietude that they daily rob us of our moneys due. We do not see why they should steal from us and use us as they have heretofore daily done. They are surely not so instructed so to do by God's Holy Book, hence our decision is to leave them, and flock to the true followers of Christ, who are the Catholic, as they have never been known to steal anything; we humbly beseech our Great Father to remove our officials, and replace them by true Roman Catholics.

"To my Great Father, the President of the United States of America:

"Being one of the chiefs of the Pembina and Turtle Mountain band of Chippewa Indians, and being a resident of the township of land bought by and presented to us by yourself, situated on the Upper Wild Rice River, and having arrived here a poor, uncultivated Indian, as well as my band, I came here with a good intention, and also I am to-day obliged to lay the following facts before you, hoping that you will be to us what you are supposed to be, a true and good father.

"On the 1st of July, 1874, there was appropriated \$28,000 for the benefit of my people here on our reserve, but instead of our getting any assistance from this money, we are told that he, the agent, has only received \$3,000 of this money, and that he has already all spent this, but still we cannot see in what way, for we are to-day poorer and more pitiful than we have ever been, being compelled to be self-supporting without least means of implements. Also, there is a Government warehouse, so termed, at

White Earth, where all and every article we get has to come through, and whatever we do we are paid for in supplies, such as they are, out of this warehouse; and these articles are put down against each individual as having been issued to him, while on another book they are charged to us individually and we have to pay for them, even out of our annuities. There has been one hundred and fourteen cords of wood cut and hauled by my half-breed children to the White Earth Mississippi Chippewa reservation, for which they have been paid in provisions, &c., which stand charged to-day against the Pembina Indians, when in reality the Mississippi Indians have the consumption of, and my people have to pay for making two payments for the few supplies they, my half-breeds, may have drawn on this wood, for in fact they pay for these supplies in wood and hauling, while these supplies are to-day charged to us, and the labor remains for the use of another band of Chippewas. Therefore, I desire to know if this is not robbing us; if not, what can you call it? Therefore, for these and numerous other reasons, I humbly beseech you to remove the present officials here and replace them by true and faithful Roman Catholics.

His
"SHAY-SHAY-WAY-GE-ZHIG. x
mark.

"Witness:
"J. E. PERRAULT."

"P. S.—I respectfully call your attention that I am two hundred and thirty in my band, and that we are all of this mind, and with my signature you have the desire of my whole band.

His
"SHAY-SHAY-WAY-GE-ZHIG. x
mark.

"Chief MAH-NEE-DOH-WAH-SPOKE. Last summer I spoke to you, our great father. Now again I speak to you in the name of my people. We sold a part of our reservation for \$50,000, and we do not see that we got any benefit of all that. I do not know one hundred dollars' worth of benefit to us. I know that Bishop Whipple and the agent used it according to their own discretion. Many other complaints I have to make against this, our present agent. But I think this one is sufficient reason that you will hear our prayers, and give us soon a Catholic agent. We, the chiefs, together with our people, ask you, Great Father, for that. Never believe any writings which you get from here if it is not sent to you from our Catholic priest, for there have been many false writings. We know this very well. Receive, my Great Father, these, my words, well. So much I tell you.

"Chief SHAH-BASH-KUNG. If you, our great father, do not listen to this, our petition, now, and if you do not do as we ask, then we will have to perish—we, and all our people. Last summer we made already a petition to you, our great father; see how we are treated. We would not make this petition if we were treated right. A great deal of our money has been taken and used for the Protestant hospital, the church, and the preacher's house. But that is of no use for our people. We want, therefore, a Catholic agent, who will surely treat us always right, and teach us and our children right. We know it very well that Bishop Whipple is preaching religion only for money; but we do not want to be near him. We want to have near us only the Catholic priest, of whom we know for sure that he is sent to us for our benefit from the Great Spirit. For if you, our great father, would know how ill we, the Catholic Indians, on this reservation are treated on account of our religion, you would be surely ashamed. A great many Indians here must live in wigwams, because the agent does not want to make houses for them, and does not give them oxen to haul the logs and lumber for making the house. We have full confidence only in the Catholic priest, for we know, and see it, that he is doing us really good. But in the other preachers we do not see any good. Take this agent and the preachers away, who are persecuting us. If we were allowed our choice, we would keep only the good ones, who are the Catholics. We see our money is stolen from us, and so our great father is mocked at. Therefore, answer soon, and send us a Catholic agent.

"Chief SAY-CASSIGHAY. We are not pleased the way this agent is treating us. He injured our people a great deal, because he keeps back from us what you send us. This was surely not your intention when you sent him here. One hundred and twenty Indians did not get their pay last fall. But we saw him; he had their money in his pocket. Therefore, we pray you most earnestly, to take this agent away, and to send us a Catholic agent.

"Chief NAY-TAY-WASH. I like very much to see the Catholic priest who takes such good care for us, who are so badly treated. There are many things for which the Catholic Indians here have to suffer. We ask you, therefore, to help us, that we shall not be treated this way any more. We shall never be well as long as this agent, his clerk, and the preacher, are here. We ask you, therefore, for a Catholic agent, who will surely do us good. Only such a one we want.

"OFFICE OF CATHOLIC COMMISSIONERS FOR INDIAN MISSIONS,
"Washington, D. C., August 12, 1875.

"Hon. EDWARD P. SMITH,

"*Commissioner of Indian Affairs :*

"SIR: I have the honor to file herewith a second petition of the Indians of the White Earth reservation, in Minnesota, in reply to a letter of yours, requesting them to state whether their petition of January 28 last really expressed the wish of so many people at White Earth.

"It is a confirmation of their petition of January 28, and renews the expression of their desire for their agency to be taken from Bishop Whipple and given to the Roman Catholic church; and it is still stronger than the former, for, instead of 630 signatures it has 1,049, among which appear those of 20 chiefs and 40 braves, all joining in one request, viz: to have a Catholic agent appointed.

"I am sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed)

"CHARLES EWING,

"*Commissioner,*

"PR. J. B. A. BROUILLET, V. G."

"WHITE EARTH, MINN., July 26, 1875.

"Hon. E. P. SMITH,

"*Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C. :*

"DEAR SIR: In answer to your letter addressed to the chiefs of White Earth reservation, desiring to know whether the petition of January 28, asking that our agency be taken from Bishop Whipple and be given to the Roman Catholic church, really expresses the wish of so many people at White Earth.

"We, the undersigned chiefs and people of White Earth, do hereby express our strong and unchangeable desire to have this our petition granted immediately.

"Signed by 147 Indians representing 575 persons; 56 half-breeds representing 251 persons; also 56 Pembinas and others representing 222 persons.

"Another paper is inclosed with the petition, in the same handwriting as the letter of General Ewing, but without signature, which is as follows:

"The petition of the Catholic Indians of the White Earth reservation complains—

"1. That their money is taken from them by the agent, who is countenanced in this by Bishop Whipple and Preacher Johnson.

"2. That the above-named are working hard and secretly to sell the pine-lands of the Indians against their will.

"3. That the Pembina Indians are moving on their reserve, without having yet paid any part of what they had agreed to pay.

"4. That the agent is building a new saw-mill, and that his intention is to use it to saw their pine logs and sell them for his own profit.

"5. That if they do any work they are not paid in money, but only in old clothes from Bishop Whipple's hospital.

"6. That they have to pay the agent for everything they get from him, i. e., clothes, calico, &c., though the treaty provides that many things should be given them and not sold.

"7. That there are Indians on the reservation who have not received the payment of their annuities for two years.

"8. That many Indians, even chiefs, are still living in wigwams of birch-bark, because the agent refuses either to build them houses or to give or lend them oxen to enable them to haul logs and lumber to build the houses themselves.

"9. That the agent does not work for the good of them all, but only for three men.

"In conclusion, they ask that their present agent be removed, and that a Catholic agent be appointed in his stead.

"The petition is signed by the first head chief and three other chiefs, and it gives the names of 630 Indians now living on the reservations, who, being Catholics, give their full consent to the petition. Included in that number are 11 chiefs with their families. The petition claims, moreover, that 200 Indians of Mille-Lac, belonging to the agency, are Catholic, which increases the number of Catholics to 820 against 200 Episcopalians, as acknowledged by the agent in this year's report.

"Rev. Ignatius Tomazin, the Catholic missionary at White Earth, writes, under date of November 13, 1874, as follows:

"There are nearly 800 Catholics on this White Earth reservation now, and besides there are about 500 Catholics more of the Pembina and Mille-Lac bands belonging to this agency that have not been removed yet to this reservation, but will have to remove here soon.

"Sixteen chiefs of the White Earth reservation came to me to complain that the agent had kept part of their annuity-money, as he says, according to the orders from Washington. He says that he will give them provisions for that next winter, if they should need them. But in reality he kept that money in order to use it for making proselytes for the Protestant Episcopal religion, by giving provisions to those only

who will go to his church, because he sees that his seven preachers cannot get the Indians in any other way to go to his church; and he joins with the Indians in applying for the appointment of a Catholic agent."

The office-letter and the letter of Bishop Whipple referred to are as follows:

"DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE INDIAN AFFAIRS,

"Washington, D. C., July 14, 1875.

"To the Chippewa Indian chiefs at White Earth, Minnesota, care of Lewis Stowe, United States Indian agent:

"Your letter of the 28th of January last has waited a long time for an answer addressed to yourselves. Since that time I have seen your agent and your minister, One-me-gah-bah, and have talked with him about the troubles which are the object of your letter, and I suppose they have in time conveyed my words to you.

"I have also sent you a copy of a petition which was sent to Congress by some persons from your reservation, asking that your agency be taken from Bishop Whipple and given to the Roman Catholic church. I desire now to ask you if such is the wish of the people at White Earth, and to state that it is my intention and that of the Secretary of the Interior and of your Great Father to carry out the wishes of those among you who are wisest and best acquainted with the interests and necessities of the Chippewas at White Earth, and shall be glad to hear from you on this question as to whether that petition expresses the wish of so many people at White Earth.

"EDW. P. SMITH,

"Commissioner."

"FARIBAUT, September 21, 1875.

"MY DEAR SIR: I suppose that you have seen many attacks upon myself and the agent at White Earth. I have not answered them because so long as I am conscious of having done my duty I can leave my reputation to God. One explanation I make to you. In June, I received a letter from Mr. Gilfillan, saying that there was no money to employ the blacksmiths and the carpenters after July 1. They are very superior and faithful men, and have received \$900 each a year out of the utility-fund; for no such man would live here in the Indian country on the pittance the Government offers. I felt that it was certain and sure ruin to take these men away at a time when the Indians were so earnestly trying to help themselves. I wrote to Mr. Gilfillan to hire them. I told him to have them charge the mixed-bloods and white men fair prices for their work, to do all work for Indians without cost, and whatever it required, which would be half the cost, I would pay. Major Stowe had a plan to put a floor in the large school-building and so provide a place for 30 boys to sleep, and open a boarding-school for them. He said he had no means to provide bedding. I assumed this. There was not enough funds to do all the plowing needed, and I pledged the means for it. Since the day that I first met this poor people, I have never seen them in want that I did not try to help them, and at times I have borrowed money so to do. Major Stowe has, so far as I know and believe, been a faithful agent, and has done well. With a greatly-reduced appropriation, he has had nearly twice as many Indians as in your day. The real and true animus of all these attacks is that the Roman Catholics have determined to gain possession of that agency. I have never said a word against any professed disciple of Jesus Christ. The world is so dark with unseemly strife I shrink back from such warfare. I have never alluded to any other religious body in my intercourse with the Indians. All I have tried to do was to lead them to the Saviour, and teach them to live as civilized men. You know that when all others abandoned them I clung to them; during all those terrible days of the Indian outbreak I prayed, and pleaded, and worked. If I say it, I have traveled on foot and in canoe through these forests, and counted it joy to do so, that I might tell them of a Saviour.

"We followed them to the new reservation, built a church and hospital, furnished seed, cattle, &c. After there was hope of success the Roman Catholic priest came. There were many men of mixed-blood who belonged to the Roman Catholic church, and had the priest come to be their pastor, and do what he could to lead heathen Indians to his church, I should have never said one word. He began by secret assaults on the character of Rev. Mr. Johnson. He told the Indians that if they attended our church they would be burned forever in hell. He told them that when Agent Bardwell died he died of the curse of God, because he was a Protestant, and the Indians were warned against his fate. He has from the day he came been a fomentor of discord, and I believe the cause of most of the dissensions at the agency. I would not misjudge any man, but I believe he is a bad man. I will not even under so great provocation be a party to a quarrel. I do ask, and I have the right to ask, that you will send a perfectly reliable inspector to examine into the course which has been and is being pursued, and let him make a report.

"You may know that his course has been a very strange and violent one when I tell

you Mr. Clement Beaulieu has denounced his course openly. I also wish him to see the affairs at the agency. I ask this as just to me. It is the only way to stop this wholesale lying. I would ask that you be careful and select a man of honesty, prudence, and Christian character.

"Pardon this long letter and believe me, with kind regard, yours faithfully,

"H. B. WHIPPLE.

"Hon. E. P. SMITH,
"Washington."

All these papers or copies of them were in my possession while at the agency, except the second petition and the letter of Bishop Whipple, which by some delay of the mail did not reach me. But as the second petition is simply a reiteration of the first, with additional signatures, I was not seriously embarrassed by the want of it.

The first day of my visit being Sunday, I had a good opportunity to observe the people. I attended the Episcopal service in a comfortable frame church which will seat about 350 or 400 persons. It was well filled, and the services were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Johnson, a Chippewa Indian, who preached in the Chippewa language. The people were well dressed, orderly, and joined with apparent interest in the service. In the afternoon a Sabbath-school of about 150 Indian children was in the Government school-house, and in the same place an evening service in English.

I went also to the Roman Catholic church, but found it closed, as was also the priest's house near by, and I was informed that he had been absent two or three weeks.

In my walks and rides about the agency I saw but few Indians in blankets; nearly all whom I met were decently clad. The houses of the Mississippi band, who live within a few miles of the agency buildings, appeared to be comfortable, and some were neatly furnished. I saw fields fenced and tilled, stables, homes, work-oxen, and cows.

The annual report of the agent, Maj. Lewis Stowe, states that during the last year the Indians have cultivated 530 acres, and have raised of wheat 7,000 bushels, of corn 2,500, of oats 1,500, of potatoes 3,500, besides turnips, onions, beans, and other vegetables. The head chief, Wah-bann-ah-quod, told me that he had raised 70 bushels of wheat by his own labor, and he felt very proud of the achievement.

Other industrial results of the last year are the production of 500,000 feet of lumber and the construction of 10 frame and 30 log houses, making 170 houses now occupied, and one water-power lumber-mill; 2,000 tons of hay cut, 15,000 pounds of fish caught, 65,000 pounds of maple-sugar made, and \$12,000 worth of robes sold. These items indicate better than general statements the condition of the Indians, and when it is remembered that none of them have lived upon White Earth reservation more than seven years, and the Pembina and Otter-Tail bands less than half that time, it is plain that they have made rapid progress toward civilization and self-support.

I made a careful inspection of the office of Major Stowe, and found that he had a complete set of books, all accurately kept. Every item of receipt and expenditure had been regularly entered upon the journal and transferred to the ledger, and every article issued, even to a half-ounce of garden-seed, charged upon the "issue-book" to the person receiving it. The business of the agency could not well be conducted in a more exact and thorough manner.

Proceeding next to the special duty assigned, I called on some of the employés of the Government, on the missionaries and teachers, and on the leading men among the people, both Indians and half-breeds. With each I talked privately, and requested a frank expression of his views upon the question that has caused disturbance and ill-feeling for a year past, viz: "Ought the present agent, Major Stowe, to be removed and a Roman Catholic agent appointed?" In order to get definite statements I asked the following questions:

"How many of the Indians and mixed-bloods on the reservation are Roman Catholics?"

"Have the Roman Catholics, or others, any just grounds of complaint against Major Stowe?"

"Do you know of any instance in which Agent Stowe has been unfair in his issues of supplies of any kind, giving preference to Episcopalians over Roman Catholics?"

"Would the people as a body be benefited by transferring the agency from the Episcopal to the Roman Catholic Church?"

From Agent Stowe I learned that the number of people under his care is 2,071 Indians and 661 mixed-bloods, total 2,732. Of these, about 900 are still at Mille Lac reservation, one hundred and twenty miles southeast of White Earth. Of the 1,800 living near the agency, it was claimed by the priest that a majority are Roman Catholics, but no statistics had been given to support the claim. It was Agent Stowe's opinion that about half the mixed-bloods are Catholics, and not more than six families of full-blood Indians. In the Episcopal Church there are 200 members, *i. e.*, communicants. These represent a Protestant community of 800 or 1,000 people. Of the rest, the majority are neither Roman Catholics nor Protestants. They attend no religious service. But they

are all counted by the Catholic priest as belonging to his church. As to the charges of dishonesty and fraud, Major Stowe referred me to his records and vouchers.

Mr. Truman J. Warren, an American half-breed, a very intelligent and well-educated man, the official interpreter, declared that but very few of the Indians are Catholics; that the priest is a mischief-maker, and causes discontent; that no Catholic school has been maintained, and Catholic service not more than half the time; and if the priest should get control of the agency it would be disastrous in every way to the people.

Dr. Bodle, the Government physician, confirmed the views of Mr. Warren, and added that the priest had denounced the public schools, which are open to all, and had forbidden the children of his people to attend them. Both had often witnessed the issues of supplies, and were positive that no distinction had been made by Agent Stowe on account of religious belief or connection.

Paul Beaulieu, an intelligent Roman Catholic, said he did not think a change of agent desirable; that but very few, not more than five or six Indian men, are Roman Catholics, though nearly all the mixed-bloods of French descent are; that no partiality has been shown by Agent Stowe, not in one instance, he was sure; but some who received tools, seed, and stock, have done no work; so that they are badly off, and now complain that it is the fault of the agent.

Clement Beaulieu, another leading Catholic, well educated, thought that a majority of the people, counting all the half-breeds, might be called Catholics; but only a few of the pure Indians are; that the priest Tomazine is a disturber, and makes the people believe they would have much more help if they had a Catholic agent; that he did not sign the petition of January 24th, because it was a bundle of lies; if a Catholic agent were appointed under the control of Priest Tomazine, the Protestant Indians would get no help unless they joined the Catholic Church; that he had never known of a case of partiality by Agent Stowe, but had heard complaints. "The trouble is, the discontented Indians and mixed-bloods are off in the woods, idle, and want to be fed."

John G. Morrison, a nearly white man, whose name appears first among the half-breeds on the petition of January 24th, denied that he signed the petition or had anything to do with it. But he appears to have signed the petition of July 26th and to have witnessed the signatures of many others.

Joseph C. Perrault, another well-educated "mixed-blood," said he signed the petition, and that he believed most of the others did; though on looking over the names he found some that he knew did not belong on the reservation. The second petition had been signed by heads of families in his presence, and, including women and children, it contained over one thousand names.

Having conversed freely with these and others, I met a large number of the chiefs and headmen in council. After addressing them briefly, and stating the one object of my visit, I invited them to speak frankly their wishes. Several responded, and I have a full report of their speeches and of my advice in conclusion, which is appended hereto. Condensed into few words, the substance of what was uttered was:

- 1st. That no one charged Agent Stowe with fraud or dishonesty.
- 2d. No one had any fault to find with Bishop Whipple, the ministers, or teachers, or wished their work interfered with; some earnestly protested against such opposition, and expressed much gratitude to the bishop for all that he had done for them.
- 3d. A few did complain that the agent had given more help to others than to themselves.
- 4th. Others declared positively that all had been treated alike.
- 5th. Several said that the first petition of July 24, which I had read in their hearing, did not express correctly what they wanted, but that the second petition was the right one.
- 6th. The burden of complaint was that they were poor; that the agent did not give all the supplies they needed, and had not consulted them about the expenditures of funds, and therefore a change was desired; some preferring one of the Roman Catholic persuasion, others declaring that they did not care what church he might belong to.

On the whole the effect of the council appeared to be quieting rather than exciting, as I feared it might be.

The petition of January 24 having been repudiated by so many whose names were attached to it, I did not investigate further the specific charges contained therein against Bishop Whipple and Agent Stowe. The letter of the bishop above, and his well-known character, are his sufficient defense against any such accusations. I add here another letter from him received since my return to this city, and a report of the missionary Rev. J. A. Gilfillan, furnished at my request, giving in detail the expenditures of the mission board of the Episcopal Church for the White Earth Indians.

"NEW YORK, October 7, 1875.

"DEAR GENERAL: A telegram has reached me this moment from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs telling me that you had been detailed to make an examination of the affairs at the Indian agency at White Earth. I only ask a fair and candid examina-

tion of all things connected with the disturbed condition of affairs there. It is now over fifteen years since I began my efforts for the poor Chippewas. They were then the most hopeless body of heathen of whom I had ever read. They were sullen, discontented, hopeless, the prey of bad whites, and drunkenness, and fearful vice. For ten years I worked alone. Every year I traveled hundreds of miles to try and tell these poor wanderers of the love of Jesus and point them to Christian civilization. For all these years ours was the only resident missionary in the Chippewa country of the Mississippi. Whenever these poor people have been starving or in trouble, I have at any risk to myself provided for their wants so far as I was able. In all my teaching and that of those associated with me, we have never made any allusion to any other religious body to the Indians. The world is too dark with strife. God being my helper, I will not be a party to any such warfare.

"After the Indians had come to the new reservation, the Roman Catholic priest became a resident. Had he come to care for the mixed-bloods, who were Roman Catholics, and to try and win the heathen Indians to Christianity, I would have heartily welcomed him. He sought to undermine our work. I have heard that he has told Indians that ours was the devil's church; that those who belonged to it would be burned in fire forever. When any of our Christians died, as when our Indian clergyman lost his child, he spoke of it as a curse from God. I do not allude to any accusations (utterly false) against myself and fellow-laborers. You know how credulous an Indian is. You know how easy it is to excite an Indian against an agent. He may ask a favor or a gift which it is impossible to grant, and a disaffected person may suggest, "If I was agent you should have this." I have only one wish for that poor people, and that is, that they may be led to the light of civilization.

"I ask you to examine fully this whole matter, and wish you to ask Rev. J. A. Gilfillan, Rev. J. Johnson, the agent, Clement Beaulieu, a Roman Catholic, and others. I do not wish, directly or indirectly, to meddle with any other Christian work. God knows that all I ask is that each shall do his work in his own way, and that this shameless warfare shall cease. I deeply regret that I cannot be with you, as I shall remain East until November.

"Pardon my writing this letter with a pencil. I do it while busy in a meeting of trustees.

"Assuring you of my high regard, yours, faithfully,

"H. B. WHIPPLE.

"General WHITTLESEY."

"WHITE EARTH, Minn., November 1, 1875.

"GENERAL WHITTLESEY :

"SIR: I regret very much that this report has been so long delayed, but I did not know you wanted it immediately, and one item from Rev. Mr. Johnson I could not get on account of sickness in his family.

"There are many little things I have not included in this report. For instance, the expense of printing the new prayer-book, about \$1,000, because I did not know the exact amount, and because the books have not yet been received.

"As to the number of full-blood Romanist Indians here, I believe it to be extremely small. A most intelligent member of the Roman Catholic Church and constant attendant on their services, and who knows all the people in White Earth, told me he knew of only two male communicants.

"Respectfully, yours,

"J. A. GILFILLAN.

"Amount paid and expended by the Protestant Episcopal Church for the good of the Chippewa Indians at White Earth, Minn., from July 13, 1873, the date of the coming of J. A. Gilfillan, treasurer of the mission, till November 1, 1875, two years and three and a half months :

"134 boxes, barrels, and tierces of clothing of all kinds, received by J. A. Gilfillan, and by him distributed to Protestant Episcopalians, Roman Catholic, and heathen Indians, averaging in value \$100 per box and barrel	\$13,400 00
"24 boxes of clothing received and distributed by Rev. John Johnson, Indian missionary of the Episcopal Church at White Earth, valued at \$100 each	2,400 00
"Cost of Bishop Whipple Hospital for Indians and furnishing same	5,500 00
"Expense of maintaining same since opening, February 9, 1874, exclusive of matrons' salaries	3,465 77
"Salaries of missionaries and matrons of the hospital	7,070 77
"Paid for the support of seven Indian young men studying for the ministry, and their families	2,746 27
"Paid for freight on goods sent for Indians by mail, and hauling same to White Earth	526 60

"Paid for furniture, bedsteads, and chairs, for Indians, and hauling same..	\$309 29
"Paid for fixing up houses.....	291 00
"Paid for provisions for the Indians, including poor, sick, &c.....	295 65
"Paid for building a church for Otter-Tail band.....	900 00
"Paid Indian carpenter for making tables, cupboards, &c., for Indians....	140 00
"Books received for Indians and freight-hauling.....	103 00
"Value of an outfit of household furniture for one of the Indian students..	300 00
"Paid for painting the Indian church.....	65 00
"Paid for spectacles for aged Indians.....	45 00
"Paid for breaking land for Indians.....	201 90
"Paid for communion wine for Indian church.....	30 62
"Paid for axes and hoes distributed to Indians.....	38 12
"Paid for yarn, cotton, &c., used in teaching Indian women knitting, sewing, &c., and preparing tea for them in the evening	63 24
"Candy for Indians at Christmas.....	50 00
"Paid to Indians for services in translating book of Common Prayer into the Chippewa language.....	44 26
"Stove for Indian.....	7 00
"Meals given to Indians.....	5 00
"Horse-hire to Indians.....	6 00
"Christmas greens for church.....	4 00
"12 cows given to Indians.....	360 00
"For building house for Indian clergyman.....	1,400 00
"Total.....	39,767 72

"Witness my hand at White Earth, Minn., this 1st day of November, A. D. 1875.

"J. W. GILFILLAN,

"*Missionary of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and Treasurer of the Mission.*"

The hospital named in the last paper, built and furnished by the Episcopal Church, I found on inspection to be a large, comfortable building, well supplied with hospital stores. It had been open one year and had received 159 patients, and including destitute friends of these patients about 220 poor and sick people had been cared for during the first year. The Catholic priest being absent I could procure no report of expenditures by that mission. The church and priest's house I estimated as worth from \$1,000 to \$1,200, and the priest's assistant, brother Gonzaga, whom I met in this city, informed me that they had distributed a large amount of clothing among the destitute Indians, and that they intended to build a school-house to cost \$3,000.

Though the charges against Major Stowe were disclaimed by nearly all the chiefs whom I met, I furnished him with a copy of them and requested him to answer them *seriatim*.

His reply will be appended to this report.

The petition of July 26, with a large number of signatures, simply asks that Agent Stowe be removed, and that a Roman Catholic agent be appointed in his place.

No reasons are given for such a change; and, after the careful inquiry that I have made, and much reflection, I am unable to find sufficient cause for recommending the change requested.

Abundant evidence was given that Major Stowe is a hard-working, intelligent, rigidly economical, and thoroughly honest agent. There is no reason to believe that the discontented party would be better treated or better satisfied by any honest man. Their wants and poverty can be relieved either by very much larger appropriations by Congress, sufficient to feed and clothe them in idleness, or by their own industry. The former method is neither to be expected nor desired. The latter will be attained, and the well-being of the people finally secured by a steady persistence in the policy pursued by Agent Stowe, in strict accordance with law, of helping only those who are willing to help themselves. The progress made in the seven years past gives reason to hope that in a few years more the goal will be reached of self-support and manly, honest living. No good reason appears why these Indians should much longer need the care of the General Government. They have a rich country, well watered, containing fair proportions of prairie and timber lands, and large enough to support every Indian in the State of Minnesota. Let their lands be partitioned under the homestead act of March 3, 1875, let their reservation be organized as a county, let them have the protection and control of State laws, the benefits of common schools, and the rights of citizens, then the United States Indian agency can be abolished.

Agent Stowe seems to be working toward this desirable end, and his removal now would, in my opinion, be a misfortune both to the Government and to the Indians of White Earth.

Equally unwise would be a transfer of the agency from the care of the Episcopal Church to any other denomination. It is very evident that under the direction of

Bishop Whipple a great and noble work has been done. Within less than three years nearly \$40,000 have been expended in building and supporting a hospital and churches, in educating teachers and preachers, and in charities to the destitute.

This work was undertaken in good faith when the Indian agencies were assigned to the various religious societies, and it has been carried on with untiring zeal. To place it in other hands now, after so much labor expended and so much success attained, would seem like a breach of faith on the part of the Government, and such a change would be sure to cause great excitement and disturbance among the Indians. While no monopoly of religious instruction should be granted to any one church, while all Christian teachers should be protected and welcomed, as long as they labor in the spirit of peace and good-will, no good could be hoped and much evil might be justly feared from a breaking-up of the mission now in operation, and an assignment of the agency to the care of the Roman Catholic or any other sect of Christians.

Very respectfully,

E. WHITTLESEY,
Assistant Secretary.

Hon. CLINTON B. FISK,
Chairman Board of Indian Commissioners.

Remarks of General Whittlesey and Chippewa Indians in council held at White Earth Mission, October 12, 1875.

General WHITTLESEY. I have come from Washington by request of Mr. Smith, whom you all know, to find out just one thing.

A petition was sent to Congress last year, and from there to Commissioner Smith, in which your agent was wished to be removed, and a Roman Catholic agent put in his place.

The petition also requested that all the men employed, all the teachers of the schools, and all the ministers should be sent away.

Now, I have come to find out, if possible, if that is the wish of the people of White Earth reservation. Do you wish to have the work that has been begun here put into other hands or stopped? It is asked in the petition that no teacher nor preacher shall remain here who is not a Roman Catholic. Now, the time is short; I will not say more, but will listen to what you have to say on this subject.

PE-KIN-AW-OH. Yes; this paper you speak about—this petition—was made here last winter.

The reason we made it was we were getting afraid. We did not see anything going on that would be for our good, and the reason was the agent here was only helping those who belonged to his church; and when we saw there was no help given to the Roman Catholics, we were scared. Another reason is that the agent is a poor manager; he has done no good for us, that is, the Mississippi Indians.

The Mississippi Indians have a right to be classed first, for the other bands came here afterward. You will see what the agent cares for us if you will go and see the "big field." Who gave him permission to put a road through it? The field was good to have, and we can't see the benefit of a road through it; using up money that could have been spent otherwise and for better purposes. I don't know what use he has made of our money; he has used a great deal. And there are many poor here; there are many who did not plant any wheat; they are the ones who should be helped, and plowing done for them.

Another thing I want to speak about, that is, the mill at White Earth Lake; let one of his children ask for lumber and see if he will not get it; perhaps he has no power to give it. Is that what he is sent here for, to work for somebody else, or to listen to somebody else?

Early last spring I called upon the half-breed farmer to give out the seed, but could not get it. I tried hard to get some. I have in my band only one who sowed; I took the agent's place and gave him seed, but which I have not yet paid for. The agent is slow in giving anything. We have to wait a long time; it will be strange if we do not have to take care of our wheat a long time before we get it into flour. We could have made money if the expenditures could be placed in our hands. We have lost many hundred dollars of work that should have been done.

I did not come up here only to be a Christian; I brought my young men up here expecting assistance, as it had been promised to us, and to be benefited if we worked.

There are two bands away from us; I don't know whether they have raised anything, although there was means provided to help them; I think they did not raise anything.

I have been told what our great father in Washington had given the Chippewa In-

dians; there was money appropriated for the Chippewas themselves, not for others who are not Chippewas.

Our pine is also for the benefit of the Indians, when needed, not for those who do not own it; as it is, there has been some cut.

Now the Indians want to break land with the expectation of harvest in the future, and would not waste money sent; those employed to expend it, they waste it; we want to see money and not strips of paper, to be taken to one place; we get pieces of paper in our hands and can't take them to different places to trade, for they are only for one place.

The reason we separated from those who are being benefited, is, we saw no benefit for us.

The reason we asked for an agent of another sect, is that we never saw one of that kind among the Indians, and we thought a change would be a good thing. The way I look at it is, that the person we have here to help us, has us in a tight corner. There have been tried here two or three different kinds to carry on the work, but they have all failed; not only them but Army officers have been tried, did not succeed, and fell through. I now think that one of the Catholic persuasion should be tried, and if he fail, there will be no use to try any more, there will be no help for us.

What I have said is true, and can be seen; I have only told just how it is.

One time there was money placed in the agent's hands to build a road, that would have been a good thing if it had been made right; the road that is made is bad; it is between here and Red Lake. Wagons unless very strong would break down, I know, because I have been over it myself.

Again, last fall the money due us as annuity was not given out right. I could talk until sundown about our grievances.

We don't want to give up the object of the petition. We won't give it up. We want you to change our agency to some other religious society, for we are afraid what little remains to us will go to ruin.

As for the employes, we don't want them any more. We have those among us who can do all the work. Some of the Indians among us know how to use tools, and work wood.

We have nothing extra made in shops; no houses made for us, nothing that we could not do ourselves. It would be a good thing for the inspectors, when they come, to go around to the chiefs' houses, and see what they are like, and what they have in them. They have no houses like this; this is a workshop, and pretty good. Indians' houses are a different thing; this is just the way it is exactly.

CHE-CHE-WAY-GI-SHING. I am not going to say anything to the Indians, nor to the agent about stealing; all I have to say is on this paper.

General WHITTLESEY. Do you want the rest to know what this paper contains?

CHE-CHE-WAY-GI-SHING. Yes.

(The paper is now handed to J. E. Perrault, by whom written, to be read.)

SIR: I desire you to come and visit us, and see how we are situated on our new homes where our great father has seen fit to place us; he has amply provided means for our assistance, but lo! we are totally in want of this assistance, for by coming on to our reserve, and visiting us, you will find our homes covered with dirt instead of shingles, as was the intention of our great father, and our families in a suffering condition; the money has been spent in a mill, a road, and in fencing up land for other parties, while we suffer for the want of this money. The road intended for us cost over three thousand dollars, and the mill and dam, &c., over ten thousand, all of which is useless to us, with no means to buy logs, and no money wherewith to run the mill.

The agent's books claim to have paid us \$4,500 for our work on our farms, but I say that such a statement is exaggerated, for an honest investigation will prove the contrary, so I ask you to come and see us on our new homes, and see that we have strong reasons for complaints.

White Earth, Minn., October 12, 1875.

CHE-CHE-MAY-GE-THING,

Pembina Chief.

SE-COR-SE-GAY. It is true, every season we see some one come here such as you or an inspector. If you are really an inspector I want you to go around and see the homes of the Indians, and not go home and tell just what you have seen here.

That petition which you have is not the real one, which we mean; we have sent one since, which we had hoped you had brought; there are no lies in this one I speak of; if you had seen it and then our homes, you would know there was no lie. If all you see here had been treated right in the first place, we would not have been separated.

We do not have anything to say about our teachers, those who teach our children, about the evil that is being done; we want you to take notes and carry them to Washington.

That other paper is the one which gives the sense or what we speak of, and from which we hope to derive some benefit.

The losses undergone from mismanagement; that is what we wish to retrieve.

I have nothing more to say; you will find everything in the petition gone before you came.

That is the paper that all the Otter Tails and Pembinas depend on, and all those here. If men wish the agent should be of the kind spoken of in that paper, just as soon as you get back, we want the new agent started; I am just speaking the wishes of the young men.

We want you to take our complaints to Washington; that is all I have to say. We would like to have you come and see our homes. This old man, (Mr. Johnson, or "Eumegah-bau,") we have nothing against; he is good to our children.

Joe Charrelle or WAIN-JI-MAH-DUB. I just want to say a few words in reference to that petition. What has already been said, the fault-finding, I shall say nothing about; care nothing about it; but there is one thing I must speak about. I cannot be silent. It is in reference to the schools, which they wish to drive away. I came here to better myself, and to improve my condition. I cannot stand by and see those who are able to teach us, threatened to be driven away. Before I came here, I never learned or appreciated the benefits of schools, but I see it now, and I will stick to them, if I am left alone. And then again the idea of me having an ill will against the bishop (Whipple) who has done so much for us. I cannot sit down and see such a paper go to Washington as an expression from us.

I know very well, if the President threw me on one side, there is one man who would still keep up the schools. That is the reason I can have nothing against him, and another reason that makes me sure he is my friend. When I went to see him last spring he gave me means to break land for fifteen families. I never did anything for him; he has a kind heart; I cannot sit by and hear any one speak against him. When fault is found like this, they have no heart or brains who do not stick to him.

I wish nothing but the truth could be said about what is being done for us here. If those who are about us could see things in their true light, they would gain many friends among the whites; but the way it is and always has been, we make complaints without thinking; that is why the whites look upon us as children. When an inspector comes here, we always show only one side, our grievances; we ought to show the other side, what has been done for us. We ought to stand up like men, and assist our Great Father in assisting ourselves.

If they who are behind would step quicker, and try and catch up; but our smartness consists in our complaints. Why don't we get up and go to work as we ought?

The only thing that is a drawback to us, there is nothing wherewith to pay us for our work; there is not enough work furnished.

I wish you would remember this when you return to Washington.

There are some few of us now who know how to get along; the most of us lack the wherewithal.

The fear is that those back of us will be led away by discontent, even if we have enough that is needed.

I am no one, as it were, that I should get up here to speak; but I am determined to speak for those under us. I am afraid that if they get nothing they will become discouraged and fall back.

I was not here on the first start when most of the money was expended. Had I been, feeling as I do now, I should have been of assistance to myself and others; but now I have no assistance to give those who call upon me except my advice.

WAH-BON-O-QUOD. Well, I have heard what has been said, and will say a little myself.

The trouble among us is the reason we see you here; we are divided. I can see for myself; I have stepped backward from where I stood before this trouble arose.

Our prospects were bright two years ago, but for the last year we have stepped backward. It seems what is doing this is something I knew nothing about before I came here; that is, Christianity.

I am frightened when I look around and see our little church, so different from what it was four years ago; I can't tell why I feel sad.

When the man who assisted us, and brought us here from our misery, and gave us our little church, when he came here he felt sad; he said he would try and send a person to inquire. I also put in my voice, and now you have come.

It is only a very short time since I took the path I now follow; that is, to be a Christian. Now you have come to see about this trouble, I don't want you to think my faith is poor; that I am discouraged. If you will look around for yourself, you will see that I am not discouraged.

When we first came here, seven years ago, we were like children; now we have grown to what you see us, like white men. I look around me, at my past life, and I try to be a Christian, and follow the advice of my minister.

I will tell you one thing which has caused this difference. The reason why I count

even winters is to let you know of our progress. When we came to this different life we were promised many things by our Great Father about money expenditures, but we never saw the chiefs and our agent together to decide how money should be spent. We might have had better courage if they had. Our young men began to think themselves wise enough to advise how their money should be spent, but they not being permitted a voice caused dissatisfaction.

Now a few words about Bishop Whipple. He saw us in our poverty at our old reservation; he showed us how strong his pity was for us; at Gull Lake, at an early day, he built a church; at that time we could not see the benefit, but which we have since seen.

In one of our treaties at Washington we tried to have \$5,000 placed in his hands for building a church and \$4,000 for building a school.

When we were removed here, he sent word that he would have nothing to do with it; if he did anything it should come out of his own hands, to show us how he felt for us. The money was placed back in the agent's hands, and I presume the school-buildings, &c., that you see around us were built from that source; the church was built out of his own money.

Now about the different denominations, the one here and the other over there, both are for worshipping God, which is good. About the agent, I don't care what religion he is; if he is good I will always uphold him.

What I do not like about the talk to-day, they are trying to throw down our little church and build up another, which I do not understand. If they succeed, I don't know what I shall do, unless I resume my old habits until I learn the new service. I did that in the beginning; I listened before I knew what to do; when I had learned, I adopted civilized habits.

One thing you said I did not quite understand, when you said everything would stop. I adopted civilized habits as an example to my band. If it should happen that anything should come from the whites to break down our schools, I could not help but believe our Great Father was trying to hurt us. Now, that is all, except to speak about our agent. You must remember that I am blind, and what I say may not be of importance.

I was dressed like this man (pointing to a blanket Indian) before I was taught religion. I went to Washington; there I promised to throw off that dress, and to live like the whites. There are several here who were with me. We saw, while on our way, that the whites had everything and were prosperous, and we determined to do our best and teach our children to live like white men.

After we came home our Great Father started us, and we came here to try and carry out our promises to him; that was not long ago, and you can see how we have succeeded. There has been much money sent here for our benefit, but we never had any voice in its expenditure. Last year an inspector came and we told him why we were getting along so slow. We made a petition and kept a copy; he promised to attend to it, but did not. We received \$25,000 to admit the Pembinas to our reservation, and when we talked about it to our former agent, during the visit of this inspector, he said he had expended our \$6,000—that is the regular appropriation. Again, you being one, I ask you; I am going to find out where it has gone; you have power to find out. We have not yet found out, but when we get it, we want it to be expended for the benefit of our young men.

When our present agent came, he told us there was \$23,000 that belonged to the Mississippi and Pillager Indians; that the former agent had reached out his hand and taken \$4,000 of that, and only \$7,000 was left for him to use. I was particular to ask the agent so that I might understand and explain it to others.

Now, in talking of what our father is doing here for us, I don't want any one to think that I accuse him of theft. He is always on the move, going about and working for us, but I being a child, he does not seem to understand how to put me ahead. I don't blame him; he looks too far ahead; we can't look that way; only just at the present. He should lead us like children; that is one cause of complaint; as I said before, he overlooks our starting-point.

Now, that mill is of great value to us, but a great many do not see it in that light.

I don't like the road through the "big field." A great deal has been expended that could have helped the Otter Tails and Pembinas. We need farming-tools. Most of us have to raise what we eat. We need many, because we are great eaters.

As I understand it, our Great Father looks over all his great domain to see that everything goes right, and he has manage of me as of others; but he would have done better to have waited, and built farms instead of roads and bridges, but, being like little children, we hardly look ahead, but our father here looks ahead, and leaves us where we stand, because we cannot see so far.

Another thing that makes us think we are children, is about our annuities, which, according to treaty, we were to receive in a specified manner, but we have received them differently. We agreed among us that we would have something to say about it, but the Commissioner differs, and orders it to be made differently. As far as the

Mississippi Indians are concerned, we can get along, but the Otter Tails and Pembinas have nothing to eat. If they received their payment about this time they could plow. They see us do so and wish to do the same themselves but cannot, having nothing to eat. Now, they have to take their families out and feed them on game, thus throwing time away which should be employed in work. Poverty will take them out among the whites. Perhaps I would do so myself if destitute. They possibly might arrest me, but they would not kill me. I would then get something to eat.

Still we are not so blind but that we can see that it is better to listen to the advice of our Great Father. We feel thankful that we were brought here to be assisted. We see that if we had not been brought here we would have been ruined by fire-water.

I am almost through now, but have not said all I could say if you had more time to listen; we are poor and to be pitied; here we are wrangling from day to day; there is a misunderstanding about duties; why do they not put us down there where the strength is, and make us understand what to expect?

You have come here to see and find out how we are; others have been here before and we have told them, and that would be the last of it; we will not give up, but keep on trying to find out our fate.

I have sometimes thought we have too much to say about our agents. At Washington, no notice is taken of it; it is like child's talk, and have often thought it would be better to take some of us down there.

There is one thing I had almost forgotten; that is, to answer Pe-kin-ou-och. I belong to the same church that the agent does, and Pe-kin-ou-och says we are the only ones that receive benefits. Now that road through the "big field" hurts me, so that does not look like it.

Last spring I asked the agent to assist me about plowing; I had an ox that was sick. I came back from Sugar Camp and found nothing done; that is what a fellow churchman does. I am only telling to show you I am nothing to brag of; I am only good for talking. I talk to young men, giving them advice. The reason I speak about the agent's works is, that he makes no difference—treats all alike. When I came back to see about the land I had to work. I had a little boy to drive for me; plowing is hard work; he treated me so because I belonged to the same church. After that I looked for seed, found some but had to run in debt for it. I state this to show that no favors were shown, as asserted. On the twenty-seventh of May I sowed the wheat myself; I never saw it done, but went at it in my own way. There were five bushels I got on credit, for which I don't know whether I am to pay or not. I was told not to plant, but now it is cut and threshed, and I have seventy bushels; if I had listened to their advice I should have had nothing. I was very much dispirited when I commenced work. I was not well at heart; I was half mad, but I called upon the Great Spirit to assist me, and he listened to my prayers. I have always had oxen since I have been here. The young men did everything. I am thankful that our father did not listen to me last spring. I only speak of this on account of what has been said in the way of complaint. My son also tried to get wheat, but did not succeed; he also belongs to the same church, so it does not seem to make any difference.

WHIOO-GE-SHIG. I wish to speak about what you came particularly for, that is about the petition.

I do not come from the same place as these others who have spoken; I came from Mille-Lac.

The trouble is the young men will do no work. They are told by the Roman Catholic priest that they will never derive any benefit as long as they have the present agent or any Protestant.

The young men used to work. There are persons here who are creating this excitement. Here is one, (pointing to J. E. Perrault.) I don't want him on this reservation. If he remains here it will keep on. That is the reason why contending feelings exist, why the Indians are divided. I want you to remember what I have said. We agreed at Washington to have no one teach us except Bishop Whipple and his assistants; we don't want a charge. We don't want others to come here after we are fairly started, and destroy what has been done. There are a great many poor wild Indians where the Roman Catholics might and ought to go; it is not right for them to come here after Bishop Whipple has started everything.

We are trying to live like the whites, and they stand by us in this.

SHE-BOSH-KUNG. You see how poor I am clothed, and as an Indian.

There is a great deal of bad feeling existing on account of the two sects. You came from Washington to see us in our poverty. There were five hundred signers to that first petition—the poor ones telling of their poverty. The Great Father answered it, asking to find out if that is the wish of the people. We counseled, and found there were eleven hundred and forty-nine names on the next petition; that is all the number of those who spoke for the poor.

We could not be so bad as to try and break down any religion; it was not meant in

that way. I just give you the number who spoke in that petition ; they are all here and all live here.

You see how poor I am. I have been here three years. I am not lazy. I work hard, but don't get along. We still use birch-bark for our houses.

Perhaps the agent goes around—they say he does—but he don't come our way. I am one who signed the petition, and so am not afraid to get up and speak. What I say will be the truth, the words of those sent to Washington. Do not imagine that we are foolish enough to fight religion ; the Great Spirit put it on earth, and we can do nothing against it. If we are not listened to there will always be two religions, as we will not give up what we have taken to ourselves.

If the petition is not carried out as we wanted we want some one who will deal equally with all. As it is we are always quarreling ; we never speak to each other decently. All we want is the right thing, help for us and our children who are growing up. It is not good for any one to say such an one must leave.

GENERAL WHITTLESEY. I have heard you all, my friends and brothers, and will now say a few things to you. While you were talking, I thought of a great many things I should like to say, but cannot remember them all.

First, I will explain one or two things, for fear you will misunderstand me. I asked, would you like the work done, put into other hands, or stopped ; I did not say it would be stopped ; what I wish to say is, would you like some one else to take charge of the school here, and other work, or do you want them stopped ; I did not say they would be.

I am glad to hear that not one of you want the school or churches shut up, or the good work stopped.

Another thing I want to explain. This petition that was sent to Washington last spring is the only petition I have seen ; I never heard anything about the other petition until yesterday and to-day. I don't know who took it to Washington, or what was done with it, and I can't find that anybody has a copy here, but I promise you that when I go back to Washington, I will do my best to find it and read it.

One more thing to explain : I am not an inspector, and have not time to go all over the reservation and see you all in your homes.

I came for one thing, to know about this trouble that has arisen, but though I came for that, I keep my eyes open when going among you.

I have seen some things that make me glad—a good, fertile country, large enough to produce food for you all, and, although you have only been here seven years, a great deal has been done to make you comfortable. I see a great many houses, fields, fences, oxen, and cows. I did not expect to see fine houses like those in Washington ; it has taken almost a hundred years to build up Washington.

You have only been here seven years, and you have done a great deal. Another thing that makes me glad, is to see you have schools and churches, and that you attend them ; but I have seen and heard a few things that make me sorry. I am sorry to hear that many of you are discouraged about the future. You have no reason to be discouraged ; there is a bright future before you, with plenty of land, and plenty of strong men to till it.

I am sorry to hear you talk of being like children. You are not children. You are men, and can do as men do. It has been said by one of you, that you have men that can do as white employes do. I am glad to hear that, and if you have blacksmiths, and carpenters, and farmers among yourselves, why should you talk about being children ?

I am sorry to hear that some of you are poor, and think one of the speakers has partly explained the reason. He said that last spring some of the young men did not plow or plant, and now when the summer is gone and winter is come, you have nothing to eat.

I have read in the Great Book that he who does not work shall not eat. Perhaps that is the reason why some are so poor, and if that is true, resolve that next year all will plow and plant ; then I am sure that the next year at this time you will have much less to complain of. But what I have heard that makes me most sorry, is, that you do not agree among yourselves. When there is quarreling and disagreement there will always be complaint and trouble.

God tells us that a house divided against itself cannot stand. He tells us, too, that we are brethren and must all help each other.

Now, the Government, in managing these different agencies and Indians, has given the control of one to one church and another to another, and the Government has asked these churches to send teachers and missionaries to instruct the people. In this division, this agency was assigned to the Episcopal church, but it seems that some of the people here are Roman Catholic and not Episcopalian ; they, of course, wish to have their own church and missionaries.

All that they can have ; no one will object to it. Now, as I understand it, some not

only want their own church, but the entire charge of the agency. What the Government will do about that I do not know; I have no right to make any promises.

I wish to advise you to live in peace and harmony; to keep the peace among you, as long as things remain as they are.

You are divided into two parties; but let each party do all the good they can, but do not interfere with each other or harm each other.

One thing more and I have done: learn to be independent of the Government and take care of yourselves, without any help from anybody. You will do far better and be far happier than if you were looking to Washington all the time for help. You have done well in seven years; in seven years more I hope every grown young man will have a good farm and have it patented to him, to be his and his children's forever. I hope, before that time, that you will be citizens of Minnesota, and some of you members of the legislature; that you will be able to support your own schools without the aid of Government, pay your taxes, and help support the Government like all the rest, and, if I live seven years more in Washington, I hope to see some of you there as members of Congress; then you will have a voice in making your own laws; so, if any of you are discouraged among yourselves, I am not discouraged for you.

Since the foregoing report was written I have received a certified copy of the annuity pay-roll of White Earth Indians, and have compared with it the petition of July 26, 1875, said to have 1,049 signatures, with the following result:

1st. A large number of the names upon the petition cannot be found upon the pay-roll; from which the inference is fair that the names are fictitious, or that they belong to persons not living on the reservation, and having no right there.

2d. Many of the petitioners who signed as heads of families claim a larger number in their families than the pay-roll warrants; which shows that the numbers given in the petition are fictitious; for the annuities being a certain amount *per capita*, no Indian would permit less than the full number of his family to appear upon the pay-roll.

For example, the first seven names found both in the petition and pay-roll, with the number in their respective families, are as follows:

	Petition.	Pay-roll.
Wau-in-to-wob.....	5	5
Pay-kin-au-aush.....	7	3
Nay-tow-aush.....	9	2
O-jib-way.....	12	4
Say-ga-si-gay.....	8	2
Sha-bosh-kong.....	12	2
Nob-gan-i-ga-bow.....	2	1
Total.....	55	19

At this rate the 1,049 signatures are reduced to less than 400; but as the above seven are chiefs, the writer of the petition may have felt obliged to assign larger families to them than to the common people.

3d. The petition claims that 1,049 of the White Earth Indians are Roman Catholics, while the pay-roll shows that the three bands are classified as follows:

CHIPPEWAS OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

Indians—Episcopalians.....	230	Roman Catholics.....	12	No religion.....	244
Mixed-bloods— “.....	65	“ “.....	110	“ “.....	138
Total.....	295	.....	122	.....	382

OTTER-TAIL PILLAGER CHIPPEWAS.

Indians—Episcopalians.....	82	Roman Catholics.....	38	No religion.....	323
Mixed-bloods— “.....	3	“ “.....	34	“ “.....	4
Total.....	85	.....	72	.....	327

PEMBINA CHIPPEWAS.

No classification, as they refused to receive their annuities. The total number is 221.

It appears that of the 1,504 reported upon the pay-rolls, 380 are Episcopalians; 194 Roman Catholics; 709 have no religion; 221 are not classified.

These rolls are certified to by the agent and two interpreters, who state that the religious classification was made by the voluntary declaration of each head of family when he made his mark upon the rolls.

*Correspondence with Paul Beaulieu.*CHIPPEWA AGENCY, WHITE EARTH,
October 11, 1875.

DEAR SIR: A petition was sent to Congress last winter from this reservation, for the removal of the present agent, Major Stowe, and for the appointment of a Roman Catholic agent.

Learning that you are one of the prominent men on the reservation, belonging to the Roman Catholic Church, I shall be greatly obliged if you will reply, in writing, to the following questions relating to the subject-matter of the petition above named.

First. Did the persons whose names are given in the said petition, sign it or authorize any one to sign it for them?

Second. Do the petitioners fairly represent the wishes of the people?

Third. Has Agent Stowe in any instance been unfair in his issues of supplies of any kind, giving preference to Episcopalians over Roman Catholics?

Fourth. Have the Roman Catholics any just ground of complaint against Agent Stowe?

Fifth. How large a part of the Indians and mixed-bloods on the reservation are Catholics?

Sixth. Would the people as a body be benefited by transferring the agency from the Episcopal to the Roman Catholic Church?

An early reply to the foregoing questions and any other suggestions from yourself, or your son John Beaulieu, will be thankfully received.

Very respectfully, yours,

E. WHITTLESEY,

Special Commissioner, 509 Seventh Street, Washington, D. C.

MR. PAUL BEAULIEU.

WHITE EARTH, November 13, 1875.

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge yours of the 12th October, 1875.

In reply, allow me to state that the present agent, Lewis Stowe, has in all cases when I have been present and called upon to interpret, during business transactions, and also cases when I was absent, but which came to my knowledge through inquiry and through conversational information, treated the members of this reservation with total impartiality; that he has labored day and night, with untiring energy and commendable executive ability, to ameliorate the condition of the several Indian bands placed under his charge.

That the trouble arising on this reservation, and for the which (2) two petitions purporting to contain a majority of the names of the people of this reservation, (which petitions are nonsensical and fraudulent in the extreme,) and demanding the transfer of the charge of this reservation from the Episcopal to the Roman Catholic denomination, is attributable, in my humble opinion, to the following causes:

First. Ambition to rule on the part of the Catholic priest, who leaves not a stone unturned, and who makes his church and abode a sanctuary for conspirators, concocting and devising plans derogatory to the welfare of this reservation, and damaging, also detrimental to the settled policy of the Government toward the Indians.

Second. White men intermarried with women of our tribe, a great majority of whom are Roman Catholics, who believe that they are dishonestly dealt with because they do not receive aid from the agent the same as Indians, and who actually believe that if a Catholic agent was appointed they would reap a rich harvest. This class of Christians, that are clamoring for a change of agents, are the main movers in this detestable and laughable drama.

Third. The mixed-bloods, who have received scrip in lieu of annuities, are about the worst. They are under the impression and are led to believe that if there was a change of administration they would not be debarred from receiving annuities, the same as though they had received no scrip, and would fill all positions of trust as employés under the would-be new régime, (but God forbid,) and, lastly, is the material that furnishes names to swell up a petition. I am not prejudiced, but am detailing facts. I do not exaggerate when I say that full nine-tenths of what constitutes what can be rightly called the rabble of this reservation, men, women, and children who are still under the influence of the drum and the medicine-pouch, are the fit cat's-paw of designing and unscrupulous men; and still they are reported in the petitions above referred to as Catholic communicants. Such Indians, who live mostly by begging, and who so far have made no progress in the way of self-support, and instead of exerting their energies in making homes for themselves and families, spend most of their time in forming themselves into investigating committees and unearthing imagi-

nary wrongs. That the Indian service is suffering a damaging blow if the pulpit shields a missionary from carrying the intercourse-laws into execution. And lastly, I deplore the final result, if the Government does not put a veto on all such aspirations while dealing with Indian tribes and tampering them into the belief that they (the Indians) can change an agent at will.

You have the facts as I know them, simple but straightforward, and if I did not answer the question whether a change would be beneficial, my answer is this: The bone and sinew of this reservation, men who are making strides in the right direction, and are complying with all the wishes of the Government, desire no change; but they desire this wrangling to cease by a straightforward declaration that it is supposed that the Government will support its agents in carrying out its instructions, and that it will appoint its own agents without consulting *wards* who are supposed not to have a mind of their own for twenty-four hours.

Respectfully submitted.

PAUL H. BEAULIEU.

General E. WHITTLESEY.

Lewis Stowe, United States Indian agent.—Answer to charges.

CHIPPEWA AGENCY,
White Earth, Minn., November 25, 1875.

SIR: In compliance with request contained in communication of October 25th, from General E. Whittlesey, I herewith answer charges made in abstract of a petition purporting to be from the Roman Catholic Indians of this, White Earth, reservation.

1. That their money is taken from them by the agent, who is countenanced in this by Bishop Whipple and Preacher Johnson.

In reply, I have to say that no money belonging to the Indians has ever been taken by me, and that the number of Roman Catholic Indians on the reserve is very small; my books show that they have been assisted more than any other class on the reservation. The charge is false in every particular.

2. That the above-named are working hard and secretly to sell the pine lands of the Indians against their will.

This is also false, as nothing has ever been said or done about their pine lands in any way, to my knowledge, since I came on the reserve, and none but a morbid or dyspeptic mind could conceive of anything so absurd and ridiculous.

3. That the Pembina Indians are moving on their reserve without having yet paid any part of what they have agreed to pay.

This I know nothing about, and do not understand what they intend to convey.

4. That the agent is building a new saw-mill, which is not needed by them, and that his intention is to use it to saw their pine logs and sell them for his own profit.

The petitioners may not need the mill, but all Indians who wish to become civilized and live like white men, need the mill, and are much pleased with it. There have been about one hundred and fifty thousand feet of lumber sawed by this mill and used for the benefit of the Indians on Wild Rice River. I had 250,000 feet of pine cut last winter and run down to this mill; it has all been sawed and given out except 100,000 feet, which they are now sawing for the benefit of the Indians on Wild Rice River. The last clause is entirely false, as no lumber has been sold off the reservation since I came here.

5. That if they do any work they are not paid in money, but only in old clothes from Bishop Whipple's hospital.

This is also false in every respect, as the agency and office have nothing to do with Bishop Whipple's hospital, financially.

The old clothes are mission-goods which were sent in great quantities to Bishop Whipple's hospital during the fall and winter, and many of the Indians of this reserve were clothed entirely from said old clothes; no distinction was made between Roman Catholics and Episcopalians; in few instances work was required from able-bodied men in the way of cutting and hauling wood for the hospital, in compensation for the clothing, by the Rev. J. A. Gilfillan or Sister Maria.

6. That they have to pay the agent for everything they get from him, *i. e.*, clothes, calico, &c., though the treaty provides that many things should be given them and not sold.

I have endeavored to carry out the instructions given me from the Government as far as it has been possible for me to do so.

No calico has been given to the Indians while I have had charge of the agency, except as annuity. All goods sent as annuity have been given to the Indians outright.

Some of the principal movers in the getting-up of the petition at that time had

large accounts at the agency unpaid; those who make no complaint here keep their accounts always on the square.

7. That there are Indians on the reservation who have not received their annuities for two years.

There are no such cases to the best of my knowledge and belief.

8. That many Indians, even chiefs, are still living in wigwams of birch-bark, because the agent refuses either to build them houses, or to give or lend them oxen to enable them to haul logs and lumber to build the houses for themselves.

There are twenty-eight chiefs on the reservation; all have teams except "Mon-goonee," the queen, and "Ah-ji-way-ge-shig," the cripple who walks on his knees, and could not use a team if he had one. Many of these chiefs have horses also. There is no chief nor Indian on the reservation who could not have a home if he wanted, and would choose to make one.

9. That the agent does not work for the good of them all, but only for *three men*.

This is also false. The agent deals with all alike, according to the merits of the case. The agent is not supposed to know and does not know any difference in his dealings with Roman Catholics, Protestant Episcopal, or heathen Indians. They have been treated alike in *all cases*, and no partiality has been shown.

In conclusion, the petition represents to be signed by the first head-chief, which is false, as "Wah-bon-o-quod" is recognized by the Mississippi Indians on this reserve as being head-chief. The pay-rolls show the standing of all the chiefs on the reservation. I forward by this day's mail an attested copy of the pay-rolls, giving the number of Roman Catholic and Protestant Episcopal communicants, also those who are members of no church, and the number who actually live on the reservation.

The Mille Lac Indians do not belong to any Christian denomination. I do not believe there are five Christian Indians in the whole Mille Lac band.

In reply to letters of Rev. Ignatius Tomazine, of November 13, 1874, I would say:

1st. There are no such numbers of Catholics on the reservation, neither did the sixteen chiefs go to him and complain. No Indians would have gone to him if he had not invited them and told them that they were being robbed by their agent and Bishop Whipple, and that Bishop Whipple had been deposed for stealing from the Indians, and all sorts of false stories. He knew nothing about the affairs of the agency. I invited him to come to my office; he would not come; I called at his house twice to obtain statistics from which I might make a report, but could find nothing to show that he had a school, or how many communicants he had in his church, if any; his aim has been to stir up strife among the Indians; he has represented to them that if they took \$6 per capita this fall, the agent would have \$13,000 of their money in his hands, which he would put on interest until spring and put the interest in his pocket; he counseled them not to take their pay; he went to Wild Rice River, and, with the assistance of some half-breeds, succeeded in inducing the Pembina Indians not to take their pay of annuities, after they were enrolled for payment. His charge that the "agent kept the balance of annuities last spring in order to use it for making proselytes for the Protestant Episcopal religion by giving provisions to those only who will go to his church," is utterly false; the agent at that time did not know who were of the Roman Catholic religion and who were of the Protestant Episcopal religion, or if they were of any religion at all; their annuities were given out without partiality, as the individual receipts in office will show, and as the interpreters and persons present will certify.

It is an easy matter for a man of position who can speak their language, and is disposed to do harm, to make an ignorant and superstitious people believe that they are being robbed and misused, and I therefore most respectfully ask that the said Rev. Ignatius Tomazine be removed from this reservation, and not allowed to tamper with this people any longer, as his influence is greatly against their interests.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

LEWIS STOWE,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. E. P. SMITH,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

Petition against a change of agent and transfer to the Roman Catholic Church.

WHITE EARTH, MINN., November 13, 1875.

To the Hon. Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.:

We, the undersigned, members of the Mississippi bands of Chippewas and others residing on White Earth reservation, in respect to the two petitions purporting to have been heretofore sent from this reservation to take this agency out of the hands of the

Protestant Episcopal Church and transfer it to the hands of the Roman Catholic Church, do respectfully protest against such change, for the following reasons:

That said petitions did not represent the minds of the Mississippi Chippewas, the proper possessors of this reservation and the first to arrive here, and whom we feel should be first consulted.

First, because the signers to it are mostly Otter-Tail Pillagers and others who do not now and never have lived on this reservation, and consequently have no interest in it, said Otter-Tail Pillagers being wandering vagrants and vagabonds, trespassers on the lands of the white settlers about Otter-Tail Lake and elsewhere; that hardly any of them even knew anything about said petitions, (their chief and a few men only being at White Earth at that time,) never heard of them and never signed them, but only their chief was prevailed upon by false representations and false promises to sign, without their authorizing him to do so; that in such circumstances his signature represents no one but himself; that in like manner the Pembina Indians, who pretendedly signed said petitions, did not actually sign, but only one chief signed; many of the Pembinas were opposed to said petitions; that said Pembina chief signed for 200, which was nearly the number of all the Pembina Indians living on the reservation, including half-breeds, while said half-breeds afterward signed for themselves, by families, thus making a double deceit; that these Pembinas whose chief only signed have but recently come here; know nothing, comparatively, of the affairs of this reservation, do not cultivate the soil to any extent, and live in a distant corner of the reservation; that the Mississippi Chippewas, the farmer Indians, the producers, those who came here first, the bone and sinew of the reservation, did not join to any extent in said petitions; were not the originators of them; that it will thus be seen that the Mississippians are attempted to be overruled and crowded off their own reservation by wild Otter-Tail Pillagers, who do not live here and do not cultivate the soil anywhere, and by Pembina Indians who have only just come here and are not the proper owners of this reservation; that said petitions are further void for the reason that many names appended thereto are forged; and many others were deluded into signing on false pretenses and without knowing what they were signing; that this whole trouble and said petitions were gotten up by the Romish priest, assisted by certain Pembina half-breeds of bad character residing among the Mississippians; that it was gotten up not for the good of the Indians but for their own private purposes and for the aggrandizement of the Roman Church; that many signed for more numbers than were in their families; that the consequence of this agitation has been to keep the Indians from work, so that last summer much land remained unsown, and also to engender strife and bitterness where before all was harmony, and to array the people of the reservation against each other; that the Mississippians and others who sign this petition, the good, honest, farmer Indians, have no wish to see this reservation taken away from the control of the Episcopal Church, to which most of them belong, and which has been the means of raising them from degradation to their present state of prosperity, and which has spent among them in the last twenty-seven months very nearly forty thousand dollars to assist them now, out of the hands of Bishop Whipple, who has been their most faithful friend all along; and finally we pray that said two petitions be disregarded as not expressing the minds of the Mississippi Chippewas for the reasons above expressed, and as having been gotten up by fraud; and finally we pray the Commissioner and the Department to take such action to stop the trouble so destructive to the interests of the Indians going on here, as may seem expedient.

Signed by Wah-bon-ah-quod, principal chief, and one hundred and twenty-four others, thirty-two of whom wrote their own names.

Sixty-one are heads of families and represent two hundred and sixty-five persons.

I hereby certify that the above petition is correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that the above persons actually signed by making their mark of their own free-will.

LEWIS STOWE,
United States Indian Agent.

I hereby certify that the above signatures are genuine, and that each person willingly and voluntarily signed the above petition, and also that they understood perfectly its nature.

T. A. WARREN,
United States Interpreter.

MILITARY FORCES IN THE INDIAN COUNTRY.

The following circular-letter was addressed by the Board of Indian Commissioners to the various Indian agencies; to which the replies received thereto are appended:

BOARD OF INDIAN COMMISSIONERS,
Washington, August 1, 1875.

SIR: The Board of Indian Commissioners desire more specific information than is now in their possession touching the extent the military forces of the country are brought into requisition in the administration of the Indian service, and whether in this particular any change would have a tendency to promote the efficiency and purity of the service. For this purpose may we request that you will, at your earliest convenience, forward to us such facts as are within your own knowledge or which can be obtained by you touching the following points:

1st. State whether any military force is stationed upon or in the vicinity of your reservation, and within what distance of your agency?

2d. For what purpose are the troops so stationed, employed, or needed in connection with the Indians?

3d. How is their presence regarded by the Indians, and what, in your judgment, is their influence in respect to morality, good order, and progress in civilization?

4th. Would the organization of an armed Indian police, under proper restrictions and discipline, for the enforcement of order, arrest of criminals, and the prevention of incursions of evil-disposed persons upon your reservation, prove safe or advisable; and to what extent would such an organization supersede the necessity of a military force?

Please freely state, in addition to replies to the foregoing inquiries, any and all facts within your knowledge bearing upon the wisdom of increasing or diminishing the use of the Army in the management of Indian affairs. Statements from persons not in Government employ, whose position and experience in Indian matters entitle their opinions to consideration, are also earnestly desired.

Please address Hon. F. H. Smith, Secretary Board of Indian Commissioners, Washington, D. C.

Very respectfully,

CLINTON B. FISK,
Chairman.

NORTHERN SUPERINTENDENCY,
OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Omaha, Nebr., Eighthmonth 23, 1875.

RESPECTED FRIEND: In reply to the inquiries contained in circular of the Board of Indian Commissioners, dated 1st instant, (copy annexed,) I would state:

1st. Headquarters of the Military Department of the Platte are established at Omaha, Nebr.; but no military force is, at this date, stationed upon or in the vicinity of any Indian reservation in this superintendency, which includes the Santee Sioux, Winnebago, Omaha, Pawnee, Otoe, and Missouri, Iowa, and Sac and Fox of Missouri tribes of Indians.

2d. During my nearly four years charge of the above-named Indians, troops have been asked for in connection with the Indian service on three occasions only, as follows:

A. Eleventhmonth 30, 1874, I addressed a letter to the commanding officer of the department of the Platte, requesting that such action might be taken as would protect the timber on the Pawnee reservation from the depredation of white settlers; said depredations were extensive; United States and State laws did not protect the property; the depredators were armed, and defied authority; and, as a last resort, the military were called upon. No action was taken by the commanding officer, nor my letter replied to.

B. F. H. Smith and B. Rush Roberts, members of the Board of Indian Commissioners, with my approval, addressed a letter, April 18, 1875, to the commander of the department of the Platte, asking that a small force of troops be stationed in such prox-

imity to the Pawnee agency as would afford protection to the remnant of the tribe (principally aged persons and school-children) left in Nebraska, in case of sudden attack by the Sioux; strong appeals having been made by the Indians to the commissioners and also to this office for protection. In response to the above-named letter, C. Wheaton, captain Twenty-third Infantry, with a small company of infantry, arrived at Pawnee agency, May 8, 1875. By letter from Agent Burgess, dated 16th instant, I am informed that he has received a copy of Special Orders No. 91, issued by command of General Crook, instructing Company G, Twenty-third Infantry, to be withdrawn from Pawnee agency, and to report to Omaha Barracks on the 28th instant. No attack has been made upon the Pawnees by Sioux during the presence of troops upon the reservation.

C. During a temporary excitement in the Winnebago tribe, Agent Bradley, apprehending difficulty from some of his dissatisfied Indians, May 16, 1875, asked military protection from Colonel McClure, of Sioux City, Iowa. Lieutenant Gibson, with sixteen men of Company H, Seventh Cavalry, were stationed a few days at Winnebago agency. No active service by the cavalry was necessary, and, in my opinion, the presence of soldiers at Winnebago agency on said occasion was unnecessary and the request improper.

3d. Indians of this superintendency dislike the presence of troops at or near their agencies and ask for their assistance only in extremity. As far as my observation extends, I believe the influence of troops stationed at or near Indian agencies is not good in respect to morality, good order, and progress in civilization.

4th. A well-paid, armed Indian police, under proper restrictions and discipline, would, in my opinion, prove safe and advisable in preventing the incursions of evil-disposed persons upon the reservations of this superintendency, if supported by the laws and law officers of the United States; would promote and preserve peace and good order in the tribes; and supersede the necessity of any military force.

Very respectfully, thy friend,

BARCLAY WHITE,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

Hon. F. H. SMITH,
Secretary, Washington, D. C.

NORTHERN SUPERINTENDENCY,
OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Omaha, Nebr., Ninthmonth 3, 1875.

RESPECTED FRIEND: When my communication of 23d ultimo was mailed, I supposed it was a true statement. Later information received at this office indicates that there are two errors therein, which I desire to correct. Captain Wheaton's company, of Forty-fifth Infantry, left the Pawnee agency Eighthmonth 25, 1875, consequently were protecting the agency at the time my letter was written. I supposed it had left previously. On the 23d ultimo, about daybreak, the wife of Eagle, head chief of the Ske-dec band of Pawnees, was shot and instantly killed. She was near her lodge, and the party committing the murder was sheltered from view by tall corn and escaped unobserved. Agent Burgess reports that Captain Wheaton's company "was stationed in sight, within a few hundred yards of the point of attack. It was not only inadequate for protection, but of no practicable benefit whatever against Indians." On the 30th ultimo, soon after sunrise, fourteen Indians, supposed to be Sioux, rode out of a ravine and shot four balls into Kow-is-a, or Charley Fighting Bear, a Pawnee school-boy, fifteen years of age, who was herding Pawnee horses, killing him on the spot. This occurred about forty rods from the agency carpenter's dwelling-house. The murderers then chased the horses, but, not succeeding in capturing them, left. An active chase by Pawnees was given them for several miles, but they had fleet horses, were better armed than the Pawnees, and escaped.

Very respectfully, thy friend,

BARCLAY WHITE,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

Hon. F. H. SMITH,
Secretary, Washington, D. C.

PAWNEE AGENCY,
Genoa, Nebr., Eighthmonth 27, 1875.

RESPECTED FRIEND: In response to the circular of the board of August 1, respecting a military force for Indian protection, I will give the facts and impressions before me: 1st. There is no military force stationed on our reservation at present, nor in the vicinity. A company of infantry, however, have been stationed at this agency for sev-

eral months past, for the purpose of protecting our tribe from the hostile raids of the Sioux or other Indians, in their weak and unprotected condition.

2d. The troops at this place were solicited to come by the Pawnees, and their relations to them were entirely friendly. Being under good discipline, we had no cause for any complaint, but the time they remained here was too short to judge of the influence in respect to morality, good order, and progress from practical observation.

3d. The organization of an armed Indian police I think is not needed for the enforcement of discipline among our Indians, but "under proper restrictions and discipline" such a force might often prove quite useful to prevent incursions from other evil-disposed persons, and would, in my opinion, be more effective than a regular military force.

I have consulted some persons who have had considerable experience in Indian matters, who fully concur in my views as applicable to the present condition and opening prospects of the Pawnee tribe.

Very respectfully,

F. H. SMITH,
Secretary Board Indian Commissioners.

WM. BURGESS,
United States Indian Agent.

GREAT NEMAH Agency,
OFFICE UNITED STATES INDIAN AGENT,
Nohart, Nebr., Eighth month 28, 1875.

RESPECTED FRIEND: In answer to the inquiries of the Board of Indian Commissioners, contained in circular dated Washington, August 1, 1875, I offer the following:

Answer to first question. None.

Second and third. Also answered by first.

Answer to fourth question. I do not think the organization of "an armed Indian police" would be advisable. We have now a police consisting of five Indians, whose authority is granted by the tribe, with the approval of the Department, and have power to arrest criminals, whose crimes are investigated, and punishment given according to extent of crime. This course was adopted more especially to prevent intoxication, and is attended with very beneficial results. No necessity exists for the interference of military force.

It would be most cruel and unjust to subject these Indians to military government, as one of the greatest auxiliaries in the labor of civilizing Indians, in my judgment, is to treat them as men, and not as savages, at the same time not putting yourself in such a position that they can wrong you in case of misplaced confidence. Although naturally suspicious themselves, they quickly resent any inclination not to place confidence in them.

Very respectfully,

M. B. KENT,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. F. H. SMITH,
Secretary Board of Indian-Commissioners, Washington, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES INDIAN AGENT FOR THE OMAHAS,
Omaha Agency, Nebr., Ninth month 13, 1875.

RESPECTED FRIEND: I am in receipt of circular from the Board of Indian Commissioners, asking certain questions, which I answer as follows:

Answer to question 1. No military force stationed on this reserve. Nearest post is at Omaha, seventy-five miles south.

Answer to question 4. This tribe is peaceably disposed toward whites as also toward other tribes of Indians. An Indian police as now organized (though unarmed) is all that is needed for the preservation of order upon the reservation. There might such a contingency arise as would require the arming of the police, or possibly necessitate calling upon the aid of the military, though the latter is not at all probable. For such tribes as the Omahas the presence of a military force is entirely useless. It would not be safe for the Indians (any more than most white communities) to know that they were beyond the reach of the military, or that in cases of emergency they could not be reached.

The agent might be a military officer serving in a civil capacity; it matters not from what walk in life an agent is selected provided he is a suitable man for the office.

Very respectfully,

T. T. GILLINGHAM,
United States Indian Agent for the Omaha.

Hon F. H. SMITH,
Secretary Board Indian Commissioners, Washington, D. C.

SPOTTED TAIL AGENCY, NEBRASKA, *September 9, 1875.*

SIR: In answer to circular-letter of the 1st ultimo, I respectfully submit the following:

1st. Camp Sheridan, a military post, garrisoned by cavalry and infantry, is situated about three-fourths of a mile from here, and in full view of the agency.

2d. The troops were sent here for the protection of the agent and public property, at a time when hostile Sioux from the north were here, and immediately after the agent's clerk at Red Cloud was killed. It was also intended they should assist the agent in executing his orders when called upon. They have been called on but once, and then for the purpose of removing from the reservation disreputable persons, but failed to respond.

3d. The Indians regard the troops as trespassers, and consider their presence a breach of faith on the part of the Government, as it was part of the agreement at the time the treaty was made that no troops should cross the Platte River. The Indians are permitted by the post commander to go about the camp wherever they choose, thus throwing them in contact with a demoralizing class of men, where liquor is frequently smuggled in; it being but a short time ago that a man in charge of Government wagons was arrested and a quantity of liquor confiscated, but not until after it had got well circulated and several cases of intoxication among the soldiers were reported.

4th. Their presence has had a good effect and has had a tendency to keep hostile Indians from coming to the agency, but as the majority of the Indians belonging here feel their dependence on the Government and are inclined to be peaceable, the necessity for the presence of troops will soon have passed, and the organization of an Indian police instead, well armed and equipped, and fairly compensated, will supersede the purpose for which the military were intended with far better satisfaction, and at the same time economy to the Government.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. A. HOWARD,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. F. H. SMITH,
Secretary Board Indian Commissioners, Washington, D. C.

SANTEE AGENCY, NEBRASKA,
Eighthmonth 26, 1875.

RESPECTED FRIEND: In reply to circular-letter from Board of Indian Commissioners dated August 1, 1875, I would say, 1st, that there is no military force stationed upon or in the vicinity of this agency.

2d. Neither do we need any.

3d. I have had no experience in relation to the moral influence, &c., exerted by the presence of soldiers upon Indians. But, from the best information I have been able to obtain, I believe it is always unfortunate to have to resort to *white* soldiers to maintain order on an Indian agency. With few exceptions these troops are composed of the lowest and worst class of white men, and their influence cannot be other than injurious to the moral growth of Indians.

4th. I have a small Indian police force organized. They obey orders promptly, and have proved themselves very efficient. There is no disorder on any part of the agency but what it is reported by them and offenders promptly arrested. This might not work so well among the wilder tribes; nevertheless, among the most turbulent, I believe a well-organized Indian police could be made an important auxiliary in maintaining order and relieve the agencies from the presence of many of the white troops. It is very hard to get at the truth in this matter except by personal observation, as there are so many conflicting interests to subserve. To rely wholly upon information without experience is very apt to lead one into error. My experience, however, leads

me to believe that Indians properly organized and placed under white officers would make efficient police and effective soldiers.

Very respectfully, thy friend,

JOSEPH WEBSTER,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. F. H. SMITH,
Secretary Board of Indian Commissioners, Washington, D. C.

SPOTTED TAIL AGENCY, NEBRASKA,
September 10, 1875.

DEAR SIR: Having seen your circular of August 1, in which you ask opinions on several points of persons on Indian agencies, but not in Government employ, I respectfully submit the following replies:

1st. A military force of five companies of United States Cavalry is stationed here at a distance of about three-fourths of a mile from the agency buildings.

2d. "For what purpose so stationed, employed, or needed, in connection with the Indians?" I understand that they were stationed here for the purpose of keeping peace at the agency, or of making peace should trouble arise; of guarding the property of the Government at the agency, and of assisting the agent in the performance of his duties whenever and however he may find it necessary to call upon them for such assistance. During an experience of nearly three years on this and others of the Sioux agencies, I have but seldom known them to be needed or employed in any of the above ways, except so far as mere presence near the agencies may be called employment.

3d. Their presence is very unfavorably regarded by the Indians. Their influence as to "morality" is most damaging, and unless the soldiers are strictly forbid associating with the Indians, and the Indians kept out of the military camp, these troops will do more toward corrupting the morals of the Indians at this agency than any other means which could be designed or brought to bear upon them for that purpose. Their presence here, under the discipline at present maintained, probably has some weight in favor of "good order," but aside from that I do not think they help to promote civilization in the least.

4th. A body of Indian police, if well paid and judiciously managed, would, in my opinion, prove both safe and advisable. It is more difficult to say how far, or rather how soon, such a force would supersede the necessity of a military force; but I believe that if the plan is gradually and cautiously carried out, the military being kept on the ground so long as the native police force is in a crude and imperfectly organized state, it will prove an entire success, and a great saving of expense to the Government.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. J. CLEVELAND.

Hon. F. H. SMITH,
Secretary of the Board of Indian Commissioners, Washington, D. C.

OMAHA MISSION, September 4, 1875.

DEAR SIR: Our agent, T. T. Gillingham, has handed me your circular of August 1 ultimo, to reply to such questions, therein asked, as to me may be deemed advisable.

To the first three questions I need not reply, as you doubtless already have the proper information.

To the fourth question I would answer, decidedly, that "an armed Indian police, under proper restrictions and discipline," is far preferable to military force, as far as the Omahas are concerned, as they are noted, I believe, for their peaceable disposition. Perhaps the same may be said of most of the tribes along or near the river in Kansas and Nebraska. Kindness, firmness, and honesty, in our intercourse with them, will do much more toward civilizing them than a band of armed soldiers, however necessary these may be in some situations, or even at times, among these tribes.

Permit me here to call your attention to one thing so much overlooked by our Government in their efforts to civilize the Indians; that is, placing them under the civil law. As long as this is not done, the Indian will argue that it is right to follow the customs of his forefathers; that it is not wrong for him to do, as an Indian, and to an Indian, that for which he would be severely punished if done to a white man, or especially, if he were a white man. I cannot conceive that an Indian, because he is an Indian, has any right to live in open violation of civil law, any more than a Mormon has a right to violate the same law, because he is a Mormon. It is not necessary, to secure the Indian his rights, to allow him to commit crime, or deprive others of their rights, just because he is an Indian. No man has a right to do wrong. To extend over them the civil law, Government would be assuming no more than they have, in many instances, already assumed. The sooner our Government looks this fact in the face the better it will

be for both parties. Until it is done, Government tacitly, at least, consents to the commission of crime among themselves. I would also state that, in my view, hereditary chiefship, as it now exists, is a hinderance to their progress in civilization, as many who have no respect for their chiefs feel that no responsibility rests upon them, because they are private individuals. All ought to be made to feel that they have something to do not for themselves only, but for the advancement of the nation or tribe. The abolishing of this would necessarily follow their coming under the civil law.

In connection with this, it gives me pleasure to state that, as far as I can observe, our present agent is acting judiciously in his efforts to advance their condition, and have them become a self-supporting and industrious people, a testimony I have not been often able to bear, in an experience of almost forty years. I have been desired to bear such testimony when I could not; I do it cheerfully unasked.

Yours, truly,

WM. HAMILTON, *Missionary.*

Hon. F. H. SMITH, *Secretary, &c., Washington, D. C.*

OFFICE OF QUAPAW INDIAN AGENCY, IND. T.,
(*Seneca Post-office, Mo.*) Quapaw Agency, Ninthmonth 9, 1875.

Hon. F. H. SMITH,
Secretary Board of Indian Commissioners:

I am in receipt of printed letter from Hon. Clinton B. Fisk, chairman of your board, under date of 1st ultimo, making inquiry with reference to the influence of the military upon the Indians of this agency.

In answer to the three first questions I would state, we have not had any military force stationed either upon or in the vicinity of the agency, therefore could not tell from experience what influence a military force would exert over the Indians.

In answer to the fourth, so far as this agency is concerned I do not believe an "armed Indian police" would be advisable. What we most need is the proper and efficient execution of the laws against selling liquor to Indians. This done we should have very few crimes committed by the Indians in this agency, but so long as an Indian can procure whisky just so long will he commit depredations, and so long as he has money to buy with, there will be unprincipled white men on the border to sell regardless of the consequences.

Very respectfully,

H. W. JONES,
United States Indian Agent.

SAC AND FOX AGENCY, IND. T.,
Ninthmonth 10, 1875.

Hon. F. H. SMITH,
Secretary Board Indian Commissioners, Washington, D. C.:

About the 20th ultimo I received a letter dated Eighthmonth 1, 1875, and signed by Clinton B. Fisk, as chairman of the Board of Indian Commissioners, asking information concerning the extent and influence of the military in the Indian service at this agency.

After due reflection upon the merits of the questions, I make the following answers, which are alike applicable to the three tribes within the jurisdiction of this agency, viz, the Sacs and Foxes, Absentee Shawnees, and Mexican Kickapoos.

Answer to first question. There is no military force upon or in the vicinity of the reservation of either tribe under my charge. The nearest military force to this agency is stationed at Cheyenne agency, a distance of about one hundred miles, by the route most generally traveled.

Answer to second question. I know of no necessity whatever of a military force being stationed at this agency.

Answer to third question. So far as my knowledge extends, Indians have a dread for soldiers, and entertain any other than good feelings toward them. In my opinion the presence of soldiers would demoralize rather than have any desirable influence over the Indians of this agency.

Answer to fourth question. There is no necessity of an armed police force of Indians at this agency, except in cases of horse-stealing, which occur very rarely. Only two instances of horse-stealing have occurred since my stay at this place, now nearly three years. And in that case the authority of the agent, if rightly exercised, is entirely sufficient. If an Indian police-force was organized, its work would eventually be a total failure, unless the means of administering penalties were more convenient and effectual than they now are.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN H. PICKERING,
United States Indian Agent.

OFFICE WICHITA AGENCY, IND. T.,
Anadarka P. O., Ninthmonth 7, 1875.

Hon. F. H. SMITH,
Secretary Board Indian Commissioners, Washington, D. C. :

I have received from your board a circular-letter dated August 1, 1875.

In reply I have to state—

1st. That no military force is stationed upon this reservation or in the vicinity. The nearest military station is at Fort Sill, thirty-five miles distant.

2d. No troops are needed in connection with the Indians of this reservation.

3d. As far as I know, but few Indians of this reservation desire the presence of troops. Where there may be an exceptional case, they are influenced by some selfish motive.

The influence of troops stationed permanently, or for any length of time, near to Indians is demoralizing and subversive of good order; and disease and ruin is almost, if not altogether, the sure effect of a close proximity of soldiers to the camps of Indians. Consequently, they can make no progress, under such circumstances, in civilization, though they may be loyal, peaceable, and friendly.

4th. The organization of an Indian police for the purposes mentioned would, in my judgment, prove safe and practicable; and, under proper restrictions and discipline, it would be advisable. Such an organization would altogether supersede the necessity of a military force in all cases, unless they were cases of extraordinary character.

During the five years and upward that I have been with the Indians of this agency the Kiowas and Comanches, and all the wild tribes of the plains, could come here and go at pleasure; and the Kiowas, Comanches, Apaches, and Arapahoes were frequent visitors to us, and the Cheyennes came occasionally. This was the case until last year, when the wild tribes referred to were turned over to the military authorities. Every summer, I believe, depredations were committed and persons killed by Indians at or near the military post, and raids were continued into Texas by lawless bands, and a good deal of excitement existed at such times at the post, and apprehensions were expressed by traders and others upon this reservation; but troops were never considered necessary for our protection, and none were stationed here, or desired, and I know of no one that was molested upon the reservation.

The troubles of last summer are so well known to your board that it is not necessary for me to enter into a detailed account of the occurrences of that eventful period; and without adverting to the causes which led to such a disturbed condition of things and the way in which the affairs were carried forward, I will only say that a small company of infantry was stationed near to the agency buildings which remained there from the time of the outbreak until about the middle of Fourthmonth last, when the force was removed.

The commanding general at Fort Sill has been notified by me of the presence of horse-thieves and whisky-traffickers in this neighborhood, and the information has received prompt attention; but such men can generally elude the soldiers, and they are mostly unsuccessful in making arrests. Arrests have been made by private white citizens and also by Indians under my direction, but a more thoroughly organized system is desirable.

I am, very respectfully,

JONA. RICHARDS,
United States Indian Agent.

AGENCY INDIANS IN KANSAS,
Eighthmonth 23, 1875.

F. H. SMITH,

Secretary Board Indian Commissioners, Washington City, D. C. :

Circular-letter dated Eighthmonth 1, 1875, stating that "the Board of Indian Commissioners desire more specific information than is now in their possession touching the extent the military forces of the country are brought into requisition in the administration of the Indian service, and whether in this particular any change would have a tendency to promote the efficiency and purity of the service," has been received.

Before answering the questions therein proposed, it may be proper to state that there are two tribes, occupying different reservations in this agency, viz, the Prairie band of Pottawatomie Indians, numbering about 450 persons, and the Kickapoo Indians, numbering about 275 persons. Both of these tribes have in a great measure adopted the habits of civilized life. Many persons of both tribes are thrifty farmers, have large numbers of ponies, are becoming interested in raising cattle, and are slowly but surely attaining the position of self-reliant and responsible individuals. Both tribes have commodious school-buildings and other necessary accommodations for the proper care of the children; the schools are well filled by a class of children who are making rapid advancement in their studies, who are easily impressed with moral lessons, and readily accept the customs of a higher civilization.

The history of these Indians informs us that at a not very remote period they were warlike, barbarous, and the inveterate enemy of the white race. Their reputation to-day is that of a peaceful and reflective people; their intercourse with white people living contiguous to their reserve is of a pleasant and even neighborly character, notwithstanding that some white men commit depredations on their timber and other property.

It follows that there must be some causes for the change in these Indians, and were I to answer the questions propounded in a general manner, the causes assigned for these radical changes would perhaps be sufficient. They are as follows, viz: An exact and faithful compliance with all treaties. A conciliatory and pleasant manner in transacting business, and in our daily intercourse. An entire suppression of arbitrary manner in suggesting reforms, and of arbitrary power in executing orders.

Therefore any introduction of the military power, which is certainly peremptory and arbitrary, in the government of the Indians, would not only be detrimental to their interests, but seriously retard their advancement.

These views are the result of several years' experience with Indians, during which time the tribes with which I have been associated have made steady progress, under the treatment before referred to.

Question 1. No military stationed on the reserves in this agency; Fort Leavenworth the nearest military post.

Question 2. None stationed on the reserves in this agency; none needed.

Question 3. There is a deep-seated prejudice against the military; their influence among Indians is demoralizing and exciting.

Question 4. Have advised the organization of a police-force to maintain order in the tribes and to prevent depredations; think it would be safe. The United States courts afford redress for grievances.

Thine, truly,

M. U. NEWLIN,
United States Indian Agent.

BLACKFEET AGENCY, MONTANA,
September 12, 1875.

SIR: I am in receipt of circular-letter dated Washington, 1st ultimo, desiring information touching the extent of the military forces in the administration of Indian affairs, and in reply, have the honor to state:

That a military post is established at Fort Shaw, thirty-five miles from this agency. The post is the most important one in Montana, the garrison sometimes numbering seven or eight hundred men, and serves as a depot for the several garrisons throughout this country.

The purpose of the post is to protect the frontier settlements from the Indians, and keep them in check. Since Colonel Baker's attack upon the Piegans in 1868 there has been no fight between the troops and these tribes, and, except to aid in the capture of illicit whisky-traders, occasionally, I believe they are occupied in the performance of their routine garrison duties.

Their presence is regarded with an unfriendly suspicion, which almost borders on dislike. The distance of the post and its avoidance by these Indians prevents the troops from exercising any influence upon the moral or social condition of these people, or interfering with their progress in any way.

There are a great many men in this country who are continually on the alert to take advantage of any opportunity to risk a trade with these Indians, and, in my opinion, it would require a force of at least twenty men to afford the necessary protection against this class. Such a force under a proper officer would, I think, perform successfully any duty required in this direction, and, during peace, supersede the necessity of a military command. In stating this, I do not wish to be understood as proclaiming against the necessity of the present military establishment of Montana, for, in my opinion, their presence is of vast importance in exercising a restraining influence on Indians and lawless characters, but so far as the question of police efficiency goes in the administration of Indian affairs, and enforcement of the "Indian non-intercourse laws," I am decidedly of the opinion, that a small vigilant police-force would be the most efficient if under the immediate orders of the agent, and well equipped. Such a force should be continually patrolling within the reserve, and the strictest scrutiny should be exercised in the selection of its members, or the most immoral and mischievous results might follow.

My experience leads me to think, that the less the military have to do with peaceable Indians the better; because the Indians feel that the presence of soldiers is a menace. This causes irritation among the young men, which should be avoided. Only in cases of threatened or actual hostility, should the military be brought among them, for the reason stated.

The detective employed here has been in the habit of calling upon the military at Fort Shaw to assist him in making arrests of whisky-traders, and has always received prompt aid in the performance of his duties, and the service in this respect has been satisfactory.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN S. WOOD,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. F. H. SMITH,
Secretary Board of Indian Commissioners, Washington, D. C.

FORT PECK AGENCY, MONTANA,
September 1, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your circular-letter dated August 1, 1875, making inquiries in relation to the location, employment, and influence of troops stationed upon or in the vicinity of the reservation, and other matters of interest connected with the Indian service.

I will endeavor to answer your inquiries *seriatim*.

1st. A military force of six companies (infantry) is stationed at Fort Buford, a military post at the southeast corner of the reservation, and at a distance of one hundred and forty miles from this agency.

2d. I am not well informed in regard to the purpose for which they are so stationed. I am not aware that they have been employed with the Indians of this agency; certainly not since October, 1873, the time I entered upon my duties as Indian agent. They are too remotely situated to afford us much, if any, protection against the raids of hostile Indians from the south, or to render us assistance in restraining or punishing bad Indians or evil-disposed white persons upon the reservation. In fact, there appears to be little sympathy or co-operation on the part of the military with the Interior Department. As a general rule, the commissioned officers of the Army appear to be decidedly of the opinion that the entire management of Indian Affairs should be transferred to the War Department.

3d. The troops stationed at Fort Buford, being remote from this agency and from the hunting-grounds of these Indians, seldom come in contact with each other. A large majority of our Indians are very much opposed to the presence of troops, and at present would not, unless compelled, remain in the vicinity of a military post. I may perhaps except the Canoe Indians—a band of Assinaboines. My judgment, however, based upon information and personal observation for several years, is that the influence of troops, especially private soldiers of the Army, in respect to morality, good order, and progress in civilization, is not good. It is a well-known, although a humiliating, fact that the morale of the Army is not such as is necessary to exert a salutary influence upon ignorant and barbarous tribes, or to give them any exalted ideas of our boasted civilization.

When troops have been brought into immediate and constant contact with Indians, it has, I think, generally been observed that an increase of dissipation, licentiousness, and their fatal consequences have been the most noticeable results, thus introducing the worst vices of society, without any compensating or counteracting influences.

4th. The organization of an armed Indian police, under proper restrictions and discipline, is, in my opinion, eminently practicable, and could be made efficient for the

enforcement of order, arrest of criminals, and the prevention of incursions of evil-disposed persons upon our reservation, and I am confident that such an organization would prove both safe and advisable. Some such force, under careful restrictions and limited powers, is employed by me over the Yantonnai and other tribes during the present summer, and, so far, with most satisfactory results. They have effectually prevented the fitting out of raiding and stealing parties from their camps and the introduction of liquor among them by illicit traders.

In the management of those Indians known to be peaceable, I do not think that it is at all necessary to invoke the aid of the Army; but I do think that it should be employed against those tribes and bands of hostile Sioux inhabiting the Yellowstone and Powder River country, and who for years have been committing thefts and murders upon the frontier settlements with impunity.

The humane policy of the Government has failed to impress them with any sense of obligation, or in any perceptible degree to win their allegiance. They should now be made to feel its power; for it is evident that they cannot be reached or controlled by any other means. For this purpose, it is not, in my opinion, at all necessary to increase the Army; but the troops should be mounted, and so located that they can perform efficient service. Under the present arrangement, with few mounted men, and those generally remote from the vicinity of the most frequent depredations, it cannot be expected that they should be efficient in preventing or suppressing hostilities.

If those hostile bands were once thoroughly subdued and brought under subjection to the Government, the management and ultimate civilization of the peaceable Indians would, under the present policy, be a comparatively easy task.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. W. ALDERSON,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. F. H. SMITH,
Secretary Board Indian Commissioners, Washington, D. C.

FORT HALL AGENCY, IDAHO,
September 3, 1875.

SIR: In compliance with the request of the honorable Board of Indian Commissioners, I have the honor to submit the following statement:

There is a one-company post on this reservation, fifteen miles from the agency. It was established in order to have the military assist the agent in enforcing his authority on the reservation. Though it has not been necessary to call upon them to any extent, the fact of their being within calling distance has had its influence. The Indians look upon the troops as a restraint upon them. They are so remote, however, from the agency, that their influence, so far as the morality or civilization are concerned, has no effect either way. I think the organization of an armed Indian police, as suggested in your circular, would be an excellent thing, and in connection with it a code of laws by which the Indians should be governed. Every agency feels the necessity of something of this kind.

With such an organization, with laws and regulations *understood* by the Indians and enforced by the agent with his police force, the presence of the military would be no longer required at this agency.

I may add, that I had charge of this agency nearly a year before the troops came, and had no difficulty whatever in controlling the Indians.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. H. DANILSON,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon F. H. SMITH,
Secretary Board Indian Commissioners, Washington, D. C.

NEW YORK INDIAN AGENCY,
Forestville, N. Y., August 21, 1875.

SIR: In compliance with the printed letter of Hon. Clinton B. Fisk, chairman of the Board of Indian Commissioners, dated August 1, 1875, I have the honor to state:

1st. That no military force is located in the vicinity of the eight reservations in this agency.

2d. That the Indians in this agency are peaceable and law-abiding, and are under the protection of the criminal laws of the State of New York; that the commission of

crime is not more frequent by them than among the white citizens of the State; and that no troops are needed in connection with the Indians of this agency.

3d. In my judgment, the presence and influence of a military force would not tend to the morality, good order, and progress in civilization of these Indians.

4th. The fourth interrogatory in the printed letter I answer in the negative.

The Indians in this agency are increasing in population and improving in habits of industry and morality. They support their own poor, and most of the Indian children between the ages of ten and eighteen years can read and write and speak the English language. They improve most in habits of industry and thrift upon the reservations which are compact and isolated from large towns, and which have been practically allotted into small farms, thereby affording the best incentives to labor, with the certainty of reaping the rewards thereof in the possession of comfortable homes.

The love of home and family and the desire to acquire property, together with a due regard for the sacredness of the family relation, form the basis of the true advancement and civilization of the Indians, as of other people.

From a somewhat lengthy experience with Indians, I think that policy the best which encourages and gives them inducements to labor and become self-reliant, and which educates their children to regard labor of the hands as honorable and indispensable to their welfare and improvement.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. SHERMAN,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. F. H. SMITH,
Secretary Board of Indian Commissioners, Washington, D. C.

OFFICE OF MICHIGAN INDIAN AGENCY,
Lansing, August 1, 1875.

Hon. BOARD OF INDIAN COMMISSIONERS,
Washington, D. C. :

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your circular, dated August 1, 1875, making inquiries concerning the nature and extent of military force and influence in the management of Indian affairs, &c.

In reply, I have the honor to state that, so far as my agency is concerned, which embraces the whole of Michigan Indians, we are and have been for a quarter of a century so far advanced in Christian civilization as to neither need nor have the presence of the military power in the administration of Indian affairs. In my opinion the Indians of this State are, as a class, the most peaceable and law-abiding portion of our population, and it seems to me that to resort to the military power in the management of their affairs would be as unwise as it would be useless. Indeed, I am confident it would have a very disturbing and alarming effect upon them. Naturally suspicious, as the Indians are, the presence and influence of a military force would create great alarm among them, and paralyze what little domestic and civil ambition and character have been cultivated among them by the patient efforts of the Christian missions and educational means that have brought them from the barbarism of paganism into the manhood of Christian civilization.

From a careful study of the Indian character and history, I am thoroughly convinced that the "peace policy" is the best and worthiest policy that ever has or can be employed in advancing this race to a condition of peaceful prosperity, and evincing the wisdom and magnanimity of this great nation. I should greatly deplore a resort to military power and policy in the administration of Indian affairs. In the very nature of things, it would be despotic, coercive, and cruel.

To be more specific, I reply to your point 1st, there is no military force stationed upon or in the vicinity of our reservations. This fact obviates the necessity of answers to points 2 and 3.

Point 4. So far as this agency is concerned, an "armed Indian police" would be wholly unnecessary, as our Indians are so scattered among the whites as to be easily reached and controlled by our State authorities in all cases of insubordination to law.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. I. BETTS,
United States Indian Agent, Michigan.

UNITED STATES INDIAN AGENCY,
Keshena, Wis., August 24, 1875.

DEAR SIR: Replying to your circular-letter of August 1, would state, as there are no United States troops stationed upon or near either of the three reservations of this

agency—Menomonee, Stockbridge, and Oneida—and none needed, your first, second, and third questions are answered. As to the fourth: Would Indian police be advisable?—The Oneida tribe are just acting in this matter to prevent lawlessness among the lower classes of them, as thieving, especially, is carried on to a great extent. I think this desirable, and hope it will check to some extent this crime. In this connection, allow me to suggest that, as usual with tribes semi-civilized, like the Oneidas, if arrests could be made when an Indian is found drunk and making a disturbance, and be imprisoned until he would tell from whom he obtained his liquor, nine-tenths of the drunkenness could be stopped, in my judgment.

The Indian is aware that, no matter how drunk he may be, in the towns and cities near the reservation, he is not liable to arrest and imprisonment, and, for this reason, he is often lawless in the extreme. There is a great deal of drunkenness with the Oneidas, surrounded, as their reserve is, with saloons in every direction; and it is only seldom I can convict a seller, because the Indian will not testify. Could I arrest the Indian, and keep him in jail until he would testify, a modest statement is, it could be largely suppressed and great benefit accrue to the Indians.

Respectfully,

JOS. C. BRIDGMAN,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. F. H. SMITH, *Secretary.*

UNITED STATES INDIAN AGENCY, BECKER COUNTY, MINNESOTA,
Chippewa Agency, White Earth, August 27, 1875.

SIR: In your circular of August 1, 1875, you ask whether any military force is stationed upon or within the vicinity of this reservation, and within what distance from the agency.

In reply, allow me to say that I have no military force on the reservation; the nearest troops are at Fort Abercrombie, eighty miles distant.

The organization of an Indian police, under proper restrictions and discipline, would be very beneficial to this agency.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

LEWIS STOWE,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. F. H. SMITH,
Secretary Board of Indian Commissioners, Washington, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES INDIAN AGENT,
Red Lake, Minn., September 4, 1875.

SIR: In reply to your inquiries of August 1, 1875, received two days ago, I have to say:

1st. That there is no military force stationed nearer than one hundred and fifty miles from this agency; so cannot give any facts or information in regard to second and third inquiries.

I have never felt the need of any military force in controlling these Indians; but a pernicious habit prevails here at present of visiting each year, contrary to orders, distant tribes of Sioux, ostensibly to make peace, and it may become necessary to use military force to stop it. Further than that, I think it would be very unwise to increase the use of the Army in the management of Indian affairs at this agency, as there have never been any soldiers at this place, a fact of which this band are proud.

In regard to inquiry-4, I think such an organization would be safe and desirable to a limited extent, and would supersede entirely the necessity of any military force.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. M. PRATT,
United States Special Indian Agent.

Hon. F. H. SMITH,
Secretary Board of Indian Commissioners, Washington, D. C.

OFFICE OF UNITED STATES SPECIAL INDIAN AGENT,
Leech Lake, Cass County, Minn., September 2, 1875.

SIR: Your circular-letter of the 1st August, 1875, is received, and in reply would state:

1st. A small military force is stationed at Fort Ripley, about ninety miles from the agency, and about eighty-five miles off the reservation.

2d. Troops are seldom needed in connection with the Indians, and only for the purpose at rare intervals, for making arrests and to assist in preserving order at annuity payments.

3d. Their presence is regarded with awe by the Indians, their influence in respect to morality more than doubtful, but favorable to good order.

4th. The organization of an armed Indian police in the absence of adequate law would be neither advisable nor practicable, and could only be used against whites, as but few Indians could be induced to act against their own tribe and kindred.

It is my opinion that in the management of the Indians it is not advisable to dispense entirely with the use of the Army, and I see no necessity for its increase among the Chippewas of the State of Minnesota.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES WHITEHEAD,
United States Indian Agent.
By C. H. BURWELL, *Clerk.*

Hon. F. H. SMITH,
Secretary Board of Indian Commissioners, Washington, D. C.

YANKTON AGENCY, DAKOTA,
September 8, 1875.

SIR: In compliance with circular-letter of Indian Commissioners, dated August 1 1875, with regard to military service, &c., in the Indian country, I have the honor to make the following replies:

1st. Fort Randall is located opposite this reservation, with the Missouri River as a dividing line, about fifteen miles above the agency.

2d. I presume, for the purpose of keeping the Indians in check. The principal service rendered by the troops at this fort, since my stay here, has been to guard the Ponca Indians from attacks of hostile Sioux, and prevent whites from going into the Black Hills. As far as this agency is concerned, I do not believe they are of any service, or likely to be. I have never had to call for military aid since my stay here as agent. A small force of men are kept on the Ponca reserve, but, so far, they have never been able to prevent incursions from hostile Sioux.

3d. The Indians on this reserve are friendly with the soldiers, and make no objection to their presence. I regret to say that, from years of observation, I am compelled to state that the influence of soldiers upon Indians is always bad, both in respect of morality, good order, and progress in civilization. The soldiers are constantly in the habit of visiting Indian women for no good or moral purpose, disturbing the good order by coming on the reserve intoxicated, inducing them to drink, so retarding progress in civilization.

4th. I have on this reserve an Indian police, under no pay, who are quite sufficient for the peace and good order of the reservation. The Indians in the neighborhood of the fort are the most difficult of all on the reserve to manage, the poorest workers, and the most backward in civilization and Christianity.

The answers above given refer exclusively to the Indians under my care. They are a quiet, peaceful people, at war with neither whites nor other Indians. The absence of soldiers from this neighborhood could not affect them in any way except beneficially.

I make the above statement without any feelings of animosity toward the military forces in this locality. I believe the officers of the Army are anxious to do all in their power to prevent the common soldiers from mingling with or injuring the Indians. I fear, to a great extent, they are powerless in the matter.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN G. GASMANN,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. F. H. SMITH,
Secretary Board of Indian Commissioners, Washington, D. C.

ARICKAREE, GROS VENTRE, AND MANDAN AGENCY,
Fort Berthold, Dak., September 9, 1875

DEAR SIR: In reply to circular-letter of August 1, I would respectfully report:

1st. Fort Stevenson, a two-company post, is located seventeen and a half miles from this agency.

2d. I consider that there is no need of a post there or anywhere near this agency.

It was supposed that its proximity might have a restraining influence upon these Indians, and perhaps, be of service in protecting them against the Sioux.

3d. The presence of soldiers at that distance (seventeen and a half miles) is not objectionable to these Indians; the moral influence of soldiers upon the Indians is bad invariably; as to good order, the proximity and power of military may have some intimidating influence.

4th. An armed police, under proper restrictions and discipline, would be entirely safe here, and might be useful. I have for some time considered the matter and think it advisable to try it, though I am not free from fear that it may prove impracticable and inefficient. Their employment would not affect the value of a military force stationed in the vicinity.

My own mind is not settled as to the best practicable relation of the military to Indian affairs. If they did not desire the management and would heartily sympathize and co-operate with the present policy, I am satisfied that it might be made a success. But at present their attitude is such that an agent frequently finds much trouble arising from their indifference, or, worse still, their interference.

My impression is that, in relation to Indian affairs, the proximity of military, as a rule, is an evil; in many places, doubtless, a necessary evil.

At this agency we have no use for it, and wish there were no soldiers stationed within a hundred miles from us.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. B. SPERRY,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. F. H. SMITH,
Secretary Board of Indian Commissioners, Washington, D. C.

OFFICE OF SOUTHEAST NEVADA INDIAN AGENCY, MOAPA RIVER RESERVE,
West Point, via Pioche, Nev., September 2, 1875.

SIR: In reply to your request dated August 1, 1875, relative to the wisdom of increasing or diminishing the use of the Army in the management of Indian affairs, permit me to say:

1st. There are no troops nearer this Indian reserve than Fort Mohave, Arizona Territory, on the south, a distance of one hundred and thirty-five miles, and at Bever, on the north, Fort Cameron, Utah Territory, a distance of two hundred and twenty-five miles. With the former we have no mail nor telegraph communications. With the latter we have a weekly mail to Pioche, Nevada, one hundred miles distant.

2d. Both of the above-mentioned forts are regular stations for United States forces, for the protection of the civil authorities and surrounding country, in case of an outbreak.

3d. These Indians, Pah-Utes, are very much afraid of soldiers, but, in my opinion, this fear has a very great influence in maintaining discipline and obedience among them. I do not believe the presence of the military would be beneficial morally, but, as I have stated, their fear of the soldiers has much influence in keeping them in bounds and checking their roving disposition, thus aiding greatly the agents and missionaries in bringing them under civilizing and religious influences.

4th. An organization of an armed Indian police would, in my opinion, work to the detriment of this service. These Indians could scarcely be forced to punish one of their own tribe, however great the offense or crime they might perpetrate. When one of their number commits a crime, their energies are bent upon shielding and keeping him from being punished. Besides, to arm them would make them more fearless, less obedient, and nerve them to commit acts of wickedness that we would have to punish them very severely for.

I shall consult with men not in Government employ, whose position and experience in Indian matters entitle their opinions to consideration, and forward to you, without delay, all information thus obtained.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. J. BARNES,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. F. H. SMITH,
Secretary Board of Indian Commissioners, Washington, D. C.

NEVADA INDIAN AGENCY, PYRAMID LAKE RESERVE,
September 6, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your printed letter of the 1st ultimo, and, in reply to the questions therein contained, have to say:

1st. No military force is stationed upon either of the Indian reservations under my care, the nearest military post being Camp McDermott, a distance of two hundred miles, as one must travel to reach it from this, the nearest reservation to said post.

2d. No necessity whatever for troops to be stationed or employed in nearer proximity than the above-named post.

3d. Respecting the presence of soldiers among the Indians, I can only say that the simple announcement of their approach throws the Indians upon the reserves into a state of fear and unrest. The moral effect by intercourse I must leave for the testimony of those having had experience. I should regret to know from personal observation that a soldier, wearing the uniform of the nation, and marching under the national ensign, would exert a demoralizing influence upon any class, and all the more upon the Indian.

I write the above in view of the fact that, with the honorable chairman, I was but a few years ago a soldier myself in his own State and received wounds which I must carry to my grave, and only the more thoroughly allied my whole being to the side of patriotism. I will here state that twice during four years and a half have influences been brought to bear upon me by white citizens in the country resulting in referring Indians off from the reservations to the notice of the military commander. Once the case, upon investigation, was found unnecessary and would have been avoided had we had a little more means to provide the reservation Indians with needful supplies, and the other resulted in the arrest of a belligerent roaming Indian; but in place of the arrest by the military being approved, (as one would naturally suppose by the daily hue and cry for military rule,) the very reverse was the result, and a general newspaper war against all interested and some persons that were entirely free from responsibility in the matter. The final result was the Indian was paroled, and has since conducted himself very carefully. In this case the military was of value, as it must always be in cases of the kind.

4th. Relative to an armed Indian police, I am satisfied that in my service it is not practicable and would only result in embarrassment, but in lieu of either military or Indian police I would strongly recommend that the agents be authorized to refer refractory cases (such as insubordinate Indians guilty of misdemeanor and trespassing white men who refuse to comply with the laws regulating intercourse and disregard the admonition of the agents) to the United States marshal, and let him make the arrest and prosecute if necessary in the United States courts directly, using the Government agents and employes as witnesses when necessary. My opinion, in other words, is that the Department of Justice can regulate cases of the kind above mentioned more advantageously than any other.

Lastly. I think it would be a practicable move, and result in allaying much of this unhappy agitation, if the plan can be adopted, to dispense with the separate contracts for the Indian service; but in place thereof authorize the Indian agents to make requisitions for supplies and medicines directly from the military quartermasters and purveyors. For my part, this plan is eminently satisfactory; and I believe all agents who are working in sincerity for the good of the Indians could not object to the plan. By adopting this method, the opportunity in a great measure to charge fraud upon the agents would be removed, as their disbursements, aside from the above named, would be trifling.

I am desirous that anything and everything reasonable be done to perpetuate the present system for Indian education and work until its prospective results are fully realized.

Trusting that what I have written will be accepted as the sentiments of one endeavoring to do his whole duty, I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. A. BATEMAN,
United States Indian Agent, Nevada.

Hon. F. H. SMITH,
Secretary Board of Indian Commissioners, Washington, D. C.

LOS PINOS INDIAN AGENCY,
Los Pinos, Colo., August 30, 1875.

Sir: In reply to your circular of August 1, I would say:

1st. That the nearest military station to this agency is Fort Garland, about one hundred miles distant.

2d. That they have in times past, not since I have been in charge, been called upon to settle difficulties, or to aid the agent in so doing, between the Utes and the whites; that they may be so needed again; that their proximity may suppress outbreaks, of which, however, it seems to me that there is no danger, if the Government will only keep its part of the Brunot agreement. This neglect is fomenting dissatisfaction, and what it may result in I am unable to predict. This I have stated to the Commissioner

of Indian Affairs repeatedly. Our Indians are peaceably inclined, but they cannot understand this delay, and perhaps will not brook it.

As matters are now, it would seem best to have Fort Garland removed to the Animas River in the San Juan district, as has been contemplated.

3d. Thus far, I am assured that the soldiers have not a demoralizing influence on the Utes. They have not probably been near enough to exert much influence for good or evil.

4th. An armed Indian police would probably be useful for regulating the affairs of the Indians, and for arresting and bringing to justice depredators upon the property of whites; but if they were to attempt to prevent incursions of evil-disposed whites upon the reservation, the whites would be apt to unite in force against them, especially where the temptation is great, as it is here, to prospect for gold and silver. Such an Indian police would not be respected like United States soldiers, and I think would not supersede the necessity of them at the present time. I see, however, no reason for increasing the military force, and it is not improbable that when the boundary questions are settled, and the Utes receive some compensation for land ceded, the military force may be reduced or dispensed with altogether.

There was a great Indian scare two or three months ago, about one hundred miles southwest of here, founded on the conduct and threats of two or three young Utes of the Weminuche band, who were not sustained by any of the chiefs or influential men, and Captain Cleaves with a company of cavalry was sent there, but he found no enemy to fight, and there was scarcely any one that needed to be intimidated.

However, I am inclined to think, as I have already said, that for the present it would be well to have the military within reach, and in this matter Ouray, the chief, agrees with me.

In conclusion, I would say that it is my policy to say and do as little as possible to make the Indians feel the restraint of the military.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. F. BOND,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. F. H. SMITH,
Secretary Board Indian Commissioners, Washington, D. C.

OFFICE OF TULE RIVER AGENCY,
Porterville, Cal., September 10, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a circular-letter from Hon. Clinton B. Fisk, chairman of the Board of Indian Commissioners, under date August 1, 1875. In reply thereto, I have to say that troops are not in any degree brought into requisition in the administration of the Indian service at this agency, neither do I consider that their presence would tend in the least to promote the efficiency and purity of the service.

My answer to the first clause of the fourth question is, "Armed Indian police would not prove safe or advisable here."

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. B. VOSBURGH,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. F. H. SMITH,
Secretary Board of Indian Commissioners, Washington, D. C.

OFFICE UNITED STATES INDIAN AGENCY, ROUND VALLEY RESERVATION,
Covelo, Mendocino County, Cal., September 7, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your circular-letter of inquiries dated August 1, 1875. I take great pleasure in answering—

1st. There is no "military force stationed upon or in the vicinity of this reservation." Camp Wright was abandoned in June last.

2d. No troops here; they are not needed.

3d. When here, their influence was not good on the Indians as to morality or good order. Any number of unmarried soldiers living near or in the midst of an Indian reservation have a very damaging influence, especially when those soldiers are immoral, drink, gamble, &c.

4th. I think "the organization of an armed Indian police" would work well; far better than anything heretofore adopted. I have induced the Indians on this reservation to elect an Indian marshal. He has appointed a deputy from each tribe. They

perform all the duties of a police with great satisfaction and eminent success. Bad white men are detected, exposed, and brought to justice more easily and surely than ever before, and offending Indians are corrected and controlled far better and more satisfactory to me than ever before. They more than supply the place of the military with us. I trust the Commissioner will allow me to give them arms, to use as my judgment, may dictate. I most respectfully suggest that said Indian police should receive some remuneration for their services. I cannot judge as to the wisdom of increasing or diminishing the Army elsewhere in any positive sense, yet, so far as my opinion may be regarded, if the peace policy is adhered to, the Army may gradually be decreased yearly until they will not be required at all, an armed Indian police being substituted therefor, and answering a better purpose, in my judgment.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. L. BURCHARD,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. F. H. SMITH,
Secretary Board of Indian Commissioners.

KLAMATH AGENCY, OREGON,
September 3, 1875.

SIR: In reply to the circular-letter of Hon. Clinton B. Fisk, chairman of Board of Indian Commissioners, dated August 1, 1875, making inquiry regarding the military forces in connection with the Indian service, I have the honor to say:

1st. A military force consisting of two companies is stationed at Fort Klamath, which is within the limits of the reservation, and about six miles from the agency.

2d. The troops there stationed have not, for the past five years, been called upon to assist in any manner in the control of the Indians now upon the reservation, and, since the removal of the refractory band of Modocs from the country, their services have not been needed in any instance. The presence of the military no doubt renders the Indians more easily governed.

3d. Their presence is regarded by the Indians with favor, because it makes a market for many of their little articles of manufacture, and gives them an opportunity to earn money by doing various little jobs of work; but their influence in respect to morality and progress in civilization is emphatically and powerfully detrimental. These Indians will never make great advancement in Christianity or morality while the post is continued. I wish to speak in the highest terms of the officers who have been in command of the post since my residence at the agency, but, in spite of all possible effort of both officers and agent, the common soldiers will continue their debaucheries with the Indian women; and, while Indians are being taught the evils of gambling, swearing, horse-racing, &c., they need better patterns than the common soldiery.

4th. The organization of a small armed Indian police—say of eight or ten, under suitable pay and restrictions—would, in my opinion, be safe and advisable, and would fully supersede the necessity of a military force.

In answering these questions as I have done, I am aware that, should it be made public, I have brought upon myself the enmity and bitter hostility of this whole section of country, because, in the abandonment of the post, farmers would lose much of their market, and contractors have a narrower field of operations; but I have answered, as I believe, truthfully and intelligently, and propose to take the consequences.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. S. DYAR,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. F. H. SMITH,
Secretary Board Indian Commissioners, Washington, D. C.

ABIQUIU INDIAN AGENCY,
Tierra Amarilla, N. Mex., September 4, 1875.

SIR: I am in receipt, per last mail, of the circular-letter of the Hon. Clinton B. Fisk, chairman of the Board of Indian Commissioners, dated August 1, 1875. In reply to the first question, I have to say that this agency is not located on a reservation, but on a Mexican land-grant; that there is no military force nearer than one hundred miles, and no necessity whatever for one.

Having had but one year's experience as an agent, and that for a quiet, peaceable class of Indians, I would hardly feel justified in giving an answer to the third question.

(the answer to the first also answers the second,) but from the fact that, since my residence here, my attention has been directed to the subject in such a manner as to induce me to seek all the information possible in relation to it.

It has been, and still is, expected that within a reasonably short time this agency will be removed to a locality about one hundred miles west of this, where it will be surrounded by different tribes of Indians, and near where it has been proposed by some to remove the troops now at Fort Garland, or establish a new military post. While for personal and social considerations, if connected with an agency thus situated, I would be glad to have a military post near me, I am satisfied that, with the Indians connected with this agency, the presence of a military force would have a bad influence. It would be regarded by the Indians as indicating a want of confidence in them.

To the fourth inquiry I reply, that with the Indians under my care no such police force is necessary. With an agency in such a locality as referred to above, or among Indians less civilized, it might be necessary; but in either case I would, as an agent, prefer to try the experiment of governing them without such a force, and would only resort to any kind of coercion when absolutely necessary, and then with the utmost rigor.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. A. RUSSELL,
Special United States Indian Agent.

Hon. F. H. SMITH,
Secretary Board of Indian Commissioners, Washington, D. C.

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, CENTRAL SUPERINTENDENCY,
Laurence, Kans., Ninthmonth 25, 1875.

In reply to circular letter from Hon. Clinton B. Fisk, chairman of your board, dated August 1st, 1875, I have to inform that military force is stationed at Fort Sill, on the Kiowa and Comanche reservation, about one mile distant from the agency. Also at Camp Supply, distant about one hundred and thirty-five miles from the Cheyenne agency, and a new post is being established on the south side of the North Fork of the Canadian River, about one mile from the present location of the Cheyenne and Arapahoe agency. No other troops are permanently established in the Indian Territory, that I am aware of, save a small garrison at Fort Gibson, in the Cherokee Nation.

2d. Said troops are doubtless stationed at these points for the purpose of maintaining order in the Territory. They are seldom employed except in case of actual war, which has occurred once in the past five or six years.

3d. Their presence is regarded by the Indians as a standing menace; their influence in regard to morality, in my judgment, so far as the common soldiery is concerned, is corrupting and bad; their presence probably has a tendency to keep the Indians in subjection while in close proximity to the post, but this subjection teaches them the vices rather than the virtues of civilization.

4th. An Indian police, in my judgment, where the tribe or tribes concerned are at peace and loyal to the Government, would be a safe and efficient substitute for the soldiery. This police-force, under proper restrictions and well disciplined, would be especially serviceable in arresting horse-thieves and restoring stolen property, an accomplishment not yet attained to any degree of perfection by the military, and their substitution for military camps in the heart of an Indian country would have a salutary effect on the morals of the Indians. It should be borne in mind in this connection that our Indian wars are almost universally the result of the violation of laws and treaties on the part of lawless white men, desperadoes, horse-thieves, &c., who usually go unpunished, and for whose arrest the military furnishes little or no security. The Indians suffer from depredations of this kind until goaded to madness, when, perhaps, under the influence of whisky furnished by their lawless neighbors, they seek revenge, and a war ensues, when the military, for the first time in the drama, are brought into requisition to fight the Indians, forcing them into subjection, but leaving unpunished, and possibly employing as scouts, the very men who inaugurated the mischief. An efficient police-force, or a sufficient number of United States deputy marshalls, might, in my judgment, remove the cause of war, and, to a very great extent, the necessity of the military on Indian reservations, and at a less cost than the interest on the annual expenditures for a standing Army in the Indian country.

Very respectfully,

ENOCH HOAG,
Superintendent.

Hon. F. H. SMITH,
Secretary Board of Indian Commissioners, Washington, D. C.

WHITE RIVER INDIAN AGENCY,
White River, Colorado, September 19, 1875.

SIR: I am in receipt of the circular-letter of August 1st from the hon. Board of Indian Commissioners, asking for certain information "touching the extent that the military forces of the country are brought into requisition in the administration of the Indian service, &c.," and asking me to give such information in regard to the matter as my experience at this agency may enable me to give.

In reply, I offer the following, answering the questions according to their number, without quoting the questions.

But I would state, first, that my experience applies simply to Indians occupying the northern third portion of the Ute reservation in Colorado. In regard to the conduct of the Indians occupying the southern portion of said reservation, and their relations with the military, I have had no means of informing myself, their affairs being in the hands of another agent at the Los Pinos agency.

1st. I know of no military post, or of troops stationed, either on or in the vicinity of this portion of the Ute reservation. I learned by letter in June last that a company of United States troops had been ordered to South Park for the purpose of patrolling that section of the country, to look after the interests of the white settlers.

2d. In regard to the movements of these troops above referred to, I have gained no information; am not informed whether anything in particular called for their interference or presence.

3d. I would state that, in general, the presence of the military is regarded by the Indians with whom I have had to do with distrust, suspicion, and fear; they do not want to have them near—think that if soldiers are near them they are liable to be injured without just cause or provocation; and when, in the few cases I have told the Indians in council that if they did not obey certain regulations and provisions of their treaty, if they molested white settlers off their reservation or visited them to their annoyance, soldiers would be sent to oblige them to remain at home, they have replied that they did not want or need soldiers; that they would be good and do right without such restraint or watching.

I have had very little experience with the military; but from what little knowledge I have I do not wish it extended; and, at last on my own judgment, would say that I do not consider, *in general*, their presence and conduct favorable to morality and progress in civilization.

4th. I think it neither advisable nor expedient. Some future emergency, not anticipated, however, may render the presence of an armed force in this neighborhood desirable; but in such a case I think the regular military preferable to the kind of force suggested.

I have stated in my annual report that I know of no act of violence committed by any Indians under my charge during the past year. I know of nothing in the conduct of my Indians since I have been in charge here which would render the presence of a military force, on or near this portion of the Ute reservation, advisable; and it must be something quite serious in character to influence me to advise their presence.

In regard to preventing the incursions or visits of evil-disposed persons upon my reservation, I would state that I do not think that a military or special police force is necessary. But I would advise that some competent civil authority be vested in some one competent, at the agency, to arrest and hold for examination suspected persons who may so visit the reservation for evil and criminal purposes. As it now stands, I have been told by authority in the Indian Office at Washington that an Indian agent *ex officio* has no such civil authority; I would suggest that, if practicable, such authority be vested in the agent.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. H. DANFORTH,
United States Indian Agent.

HON. F. H. SMITH,
Secretary Board of Indian Commissioners, Washington, D. C.

CIMARRON INDIAN AGENCY,
Cimarron, New Mex., September 1, 1875.

SIR: The situation of this agency is rather unusual, and not being upon a reservation, I cannot give as full information as I should like.

1st. The nearest military force is at Fort Union, some 52 miles from this agency.

2d. The fort was established many years ago, and is now the principal military post in the country. The troops are not employed in any way in connection with the Indians at this agency.

3d. The Indians fear the troops, and many times when they grow unruly the only way

to keep them under control is to threaten bringing the troops to arrest and punish them. As to the influence of the troops, it certainly could not be any worse than that of the Mexican population at present around them, from whom they obtain whisky in exchange for rations and clothing furnished by the Government, and who also barter articles with them for the same, thus inducing them to rob and steal from the American settlers.

I am strongly in favor of the reservation system; it is the best for the Indians the Government has ever tri d, and I am also in favor of compelling them to work, as it is the only hope for the future, for, if I mistake not the temper of the people, the Indians will soon be obliged to support themselves without assistance or special protection from the Government, and that I understand to be the object of the present system.

4th. Not having any experience upon a reservation, can only give my humble opinion, which is this: No two tribes are alike, and what would answer for one would not for another. The Indians I have in charge might do very well as auxiliaries to a regular force, but they are very fickle and apt to be highly elated over any such imagined distinction; aside from this, it would be liable to create jealousies among them, speaking only of those over whom I have control. With other tribes it may be different.

I think also it would be well to disarm and dismount upon reservations all Indians, or at least provide a place of deposit, under charge of the agent, and allow none to be in their possession, only when he gives a special passport for a hunt. I think a small military force would be beneficial—say not over 20 men—and they to act at once under orders from the agent; a large force would be injurious and apt to create a conflict of authority.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ALEX. G. IRVINE,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. H. F. SMITH,
Secretary Board of Indian Commissioners, Washington, D. C.

UINTAH VALLEY AGENCY, UTAH,
August 31, 1875.

SIR: Referring to circular from Board of Indian Commissioners of August, 1 1875, I would respectfully submit the following answers to the questions propounded, in the order in which they occur, viz:

1st. No military force is stationed on or nearer this reservation than Salt Lake City; 200 miles distant.

2d. There has been no necessity for troops on this reservation thus far, and never during the time I have been in charge have they been called upon in connection with our Indians beyond the reservation to compel their return but once; even then had there not been improper interference by outside parties, there would have been no necessity.

3d. Their presence is not regarded with favor by the Indians generally. The influence of the military when in close proximity to the agency would not be good, so far as morality is concerned, but it must be admitted that were a military post established within reasonable distance their presence would insure better order, and an advantageous control in regard to leaving the reservation, and in agricultural pursuits.

It is believed that the moral support given to the agent would be good, but at the same time it is believed that no necessity would arise for their active interference.

4th. I would speak on this subject with diffidence, but have thought much and favorably of some such plan. I think it is worth the trial, and am inclined to think good would result from it; the police to be selected by the Indians, appointed by the agent, and confirmed and commissioned by the Department. In my opinion, it is not expedient to have the military immediately in the vicinity of the agency, and all intercourse between the soldiers and Indians should be prohibited. Still the moral support in the management of this and most agencies would be advantageous were the post within reach, particularly in winter, when most of the wandering, restless Indians are present. The necessity for the interference of the military, in my opinion, with suitable supplies and judicious management, would be rare, and should be avoided and dispensed with as soon as possible. Of course these remarks apply to this section of the Indian country.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. J. CRITCHLAN,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. F. H. SMITH,
Secretary Board of Indian Commissioners, Washington, D. C.

SKOKOMISH AGENCY.

Mason Co., W. T., September 7, 1875.

DEAR SIR: In answer to your letter of August 1, 1875, I would say: First, that there is a small military force stationed at Fort Townsend, a distance of about eighty or ninety miles from this reservation, but right among a tribe of Indians who belong to this treaty.

Second, the troops are stationed there with no reference whatever to the Indians.

Third, their presence there is scarcely thought of by most of my Indians, and they have scarcely any influence in respect to morality, good order, or their progress in civilization.

Fourth, the organization of an armed Indian police for the enforcement of order, arrest of criminals, &c., is, in my judgment, neither necessary nor advisable, as the Indians readily yield to all authority, are perfectly peaceable and tractable, and nothing stronger than ordinary civil authorities are ever necessary to control them.

In this vicinity, and among the Indians under my charge generally, they are so much civilized, that there is no more necessity for a military force to control them than there is to control the members of Congress.

I would further say that their experience in being under a military agent for about a year has made the mention of *soldiers* very distasteful to them.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWIN EELLS,

United States Indian Agent W. T.

Hon. F. H. SMITH,

Secretary Board of Indian Commissioners, Washington City, D. C.

Letter from J. L. Mahan, United States Indian agent.

OFFICE UNITED STATES INDIAN AGENT,
CHIPPEWAS OF LAKE SUPERIOR,
Red Cliff, via Bayfield, Wis., September 29, 1875.

DEAR SIR: I would respectfully submit the following in answer to your circular-letter of August 1, 1875:

1. No military force is stationed upon any of my reserves.

2. None are desired or needed.

3. In answer to this question I would say that I have never felt the need of any force whatever other than moral suasion. My Indians do not *like to be driven*, but they will always *obey when asked*. In my judgment, any *display of force or power* in the work of civilization is uncalled for. Certainly this is the case with the semi-civilized. Good and faithful missionaries is what I want.

4. Most certainly; I have reason to believe, from actual experience, that most of my Indians are capable of self-government. An Indian police, such as I organized at Grand Portage in the fall of 1873, (see my annual report of last year,) is the proper thing; such an institution upon each reserve would prove safe, and meet with my approval, and I believe it would entirely supersede the necessity of a military force; especially is this the case among Indians who have made any progress toward a higher life. This police-force could be elected by the votes of the Indians.

Sickness in my family has delayed my answer.

Letter from Charles P. Birkett, late United States Indian agent.

OMAHA, NEBR., October 30, 1875.

SIR: I received your circular on my return here, a short time ago, being sent to me from Ponca agency, D. T., and take the earliest opportunity afforded me, though not now in Government employ, to reply to the queries of the Board of Indian Commissioners, and although the duty devolves upon my successor in office, which he may or may not have fulfilled, of which I am now ignorant.

Query 1. State whether any military force is stationed upon, or in the vicinity of, your reservation, and within what distance of your agency.

Answer. The military force stationed upon the Ponca Indian reservation, in Dakota Territory, has been seldom more than ten United States soldiers, oftener five or six men with a non-commissioned officer; sometimes there has been a first or second lieutenant in command of this and another detachment, ten miles away, over the Niobrara River, in Nebraska. This force located on the Ponca reserve are about a quarter of a mile

outside the Indian (agency) village, in four buildings: 1, dormitory, one and a half story, pine doors, siding and roof, frame building; 2, dining-room, one story, (used as reading-room,) with kitchen in the rear, (log-building,) with pine roof; 3, store-house and stable, both log-buildings; 4, officers' quarters, one and a half story, pine material, plastered, four rooms below, one above. The above buildings are capacious enough for a full company, and are the property of the agency. The military force (except last winter) has been withdrawn in the winter season, and has been recalled on two occasions for some weeks, in the summer of 1873, to Fort Randall, leaving us to the care of our militia, composed of a few white employes and twelve Ponca soldiers, attired in United States uniform, and having rudimentary military drill.

Query 2. For what purpose are the troops so stationed employed or needed in connection with the Indians?

Answer. According to an order (now, I believe, an existing one) emanating from a *pro tem.* commandant of Fort Randall, D. T., from which garrison the detachment is sent to Ponca agency, D. T., the military are to protect United States property in their immediate charge; also the persons and property of the agency from intestine commotions or a foreign foe; but in fighting (repelling attack of) hostile Indians, from the small force being inadequate for other purposes, the United States soldiers are not to proceed farther than "Point of Rocks," within the village-agency fences.

Query 3. How is their presence regarded by the Indians, and what, in your judgment, is their influence in respect to morality, good order, and progress in civilization?

Answer. The Indians, when (as in the case of the Poncas) they are numerically inferior to their enemies, ask first, "give us all the arms and ammunition (of the best quality, and they are quite capable of judgment thereon) to arm every able-bodied Indian," which includes the old men and large boys, and the alternative is, "give us plenty of white soldiers (an adequate force) to protect us in our homes and property, and to deter, if possible, the thought in the minds of our Indian enemies that it would be safe or prudent to attack us." I speak from my experience when I say that an Indian learns to appreciate home-comforts, and is then very zealous to maintain them. The Indian preference (I speak of the Poncas, who are a truly brave people) would be for arms to protect themselves, and the percentage of misdeeds, by rowdiness or improper handling, is not greater than the averages (numerically) in a white community. The necessity for the use of United States soldiers on an Indian reserve is made chiefly by the "squaw-men," (white men who live with, or in some cases are married to, Indian women,) and also by the officious meddling of disappointed and avaricious traffickers, (white men,) who all sow dissension between the United States agent and the Indians, to compel the former to subsidize them (the white men) by favors, or to give them unlimited intercourse with the Indians for their own purposes of plunder. These white men are unscrupulous, unreliable, and for covert treachery far exceed the Indians in duplicity and cunning. The influence of United States soldiers in respect to morality is, without question, demoralizing. For good order, they are useful only as in *terrorem*; but, if to be further utilized, the military force must be beyond the farcical status of the present day, to command a conservative respect to law. For progress in civilization, the frequent change of men and officers, when commissioned officers are in command, takes away the chances of good example by the officers, and the control which some exercise over their men by excellent police regulations, strictly enforced; and all these things admit this one startling fact, that the presence of United States soldiers in an Indian country retards civilization, only incidentally preserves good order, and is an incitement rather than a hinderance to immorality and profanity. This is the rule, gathered from my own experience as an agent and as a citizen, and the exceptional cases are very few where officers, imprisoned (as they term it, for thirty or sixty days) at an Indian agency, care to do aught but beguile the time away, and thank each setting sun for a nearer release.

Query 4. Would the organization of an armed Indian police, under proper restrictions and discipline, for the enforcement of order, arrest of criminals, and the preventing of incursions of evil-disposed persons upon your reservation, prove safe or advisable; and to what extent would such an organization supersede the necessity of a military force?

Answer. An armed Indian police, under proper drill and restrictions, entirely isolated from the tribe, even by some trifling difference plainly apparent as a dividing line; they must be selected from the tribe with judgment, so that each band and each clique (for they exist) should have its counterpoise in the organization. They should be rigorously kept as to dress, drill, and general status, well appointed, housed, and fed, actively employed under an energetic, intelligent Indian head, who reports directly to the United States agent. The appointment or election by the Indian soldiers of their captain should be understood to be null and void if not confirmed by the agent, so that if reasons exist why he should not be confirmed the fact of the nullity of their action would preclude the idea of their acting thus. An Indian police thus constituted would, in a comparatively short time, supersede the necessity of a military force. As fast as to the new incumbents of these, to them, the new duties and responsibilities came to be understood, and from usance, though lightly borne as pedants, more gravely carried

as intelligent men. The Indian police, though more accessible to bribery and corruption than the average white man in a similar position, and purchasable in a cheaper market, it has been found can be brought to understand that in a community of interests with those whose rights he is guarding, the small pittance of a bribe is not a sufficient equivalent for the rights he surrenders; and beside this, in an Indian country, among Indians themselves, it has now become to be considered poor policy for an Indian who is a conservator of other Indian rights and property besides his own, to commit a breach of trust, for a heavy and very terrible retribution—often death itself—falls upon the defaulting steward. The Indian nature, more at that than anything else, revolts at the idea that the white man's contaminating principles (which is the heaviest credit they give the white man) has made an Indian forget his native idea of honor; the Indians, as a rule, being great sticklers for integrity of purpose when its absence creates a loss or discrepancy to themselves, and especially from a "white man Indian," (an Indian who has adopted white men's teachings and usages.) I never, as United States agent, employed United States soldiers or requested them to make arrests of derelict Indians; but the Indians, as well as the white people, knew that I had signals for aid to enforce my commands or preserve the respect due to my office and person. This knowledge, with the belief that the aid would be promptly rendered, seemed to obviate the necessity for its use, and I repeat, that except compelled to do the best I could with the means of defense at my command, I should consider the attempt almost farcical to control or subdue turbulence with a military force, little more than half of one per cent. of the antagonists. The Indian receives more credit for cunning and strategy than he is entitled to; he is more brutal, for the reason that his lessons have been from the brutes and not from men. The Indian would soon be civilized if less temporizing were used, and if power and pity were the levers to raise him up; power shown and felt, if it became a question of brute force, which it seldom would when the power of the white man was promptly manifested whenever and wherever necessary, without counting cost, a certain retribution promised and paid to thered man's misdoing, and pity, after chastisement, until the red man, like the white man, became convinced that it would be better for communities if the percentage of criminals were small, and for individuals that the supporter of law and order is better off in every way than his opposite can possibly be. The civilian (the United States agent) should dominate, without question, over the military man in command of the detachment at the post, so far as to the imperative necessity for action on the part of the military force, leaving the position for and the manner of attack or defense to the scholarly judgment of the military chief; and the doctrine held by some that the Indians should be left to fight it out between themselves, (equality of contestants, in arms or numerical force, not made a matter of consideration,) should not prevail, either with military men or civilians. Indians have all the elements of self-government among them; and the traditions of the chief, whose will was law, and who would brook no contradiction, dealing death to even trivial disobedience, fills the Indian orator and his auditors with a wild enthusiasm, which breaks forth in songs of defiance to all their enemies, and nerves them to a contest with superior contestants, and welcomes death rather than defeat. Self-government is a question of time only if this same "peace policy" be persisted in. The evil-doings of its operators are mere exerecences on the surface, and, let the truth be told, are not general, despite all the disadvantages and drawbacks the workers must contend with. Specious pretenses for evil purposes win their way to position. And let it be remembered, when we blame the appointing power, that omniscience and omnipresence are attributes of the Deity alone. Christian endeavors, contesting inch by inch with barbarism, not simply within, but without the Indian Territory, not simply with the red barbarian, but also with his fellow, the "squaw-man," has made some advances, at the sacrifice of health often, and always of social enjoyment. Is it not, then, incumbent on us, for charity's sake, to adopt no policy which can claim only, at the best, to be conservative of the law, not progressive, or conducive to morality, but the reverse; and advocating indirectly, if not emphatically, that annihilation is best for the country, and that "there never was, is, or will be a good Indian until he be a dead Indian." Christian dealings with the Indians aim to enlighten them and utilize their knowledge, when attained, for their (the Indians') and the country's welfare. And I have proven the capacity exists among Indians for agricultural and mechanical labor to such an extent as to make it certain that they are capable also of such extended knowledge as to fit them for active members of society. It is possible to gain the real love and confidence of an Indian. If he be fairly, but firmly dealt with, and if practical lessons by the teacher appeal to an awakening intellect, the appeal will not be disregarded. False teachings and local companionship must each be amended by honest dealings, which sweeps away vicious intermeddling, and leaves the Territory open to civilizing influences without question.

I have lived in Nebraska nearly eighteen years, and nearly two and a half years in Dakota, and have seen much of various tribes of Indians, and my experience is the author of my views on the Indian question. It will be cheaper, in the outlay of blood and treasure, to regenerate the Indian than to go on feeding him or holding him in subjection,

with a view to final annihilation. Regard him as an accountable being, and hold him to strict account. Let the civilian to be agent for the Government have a broad capacity for his work; a western man; not simply a philanthropist, but a business man, who will make a business of his undertaking as United States agent, and devote himself to the work. Give him commensurate pecuniary recompense twice the present stipend. Clothe him with magisterial powers, and let nothing be said or done while he is at his post to abridge his absolute authority on the reservation; and when the agent abuses the authority conferred upon him, or the confidence given him, with positive and unquestionable proof to condemn him, remove him.

I have hurriedly and disconnectedly given my ideas, and respectfully offer them to your consideration.

RED CLOUD AGENCY, NEBR.,

October 25, 1875.

SIR: In reply to your circular of August 1, 1875, I would respectfully state:

1. That there are five companies of troops stationed at Camp Robinson, one and three-fourths miles from this agency.

2. They are stationed here for the protection of the agency and public property from hostile Indians. They have been called upon but once to suppress what appeared to be a hostile demonstration on the part of the Indians, on October 23, 1874. The number sent to the agency (twenty-six men) were not sufficient to effect anything, and, when surrounded by hostile Indians, the Indian soldiers about the agency protected them and the agency.

3. The Indians objected to their presence at first, but now seem to be indifferent to their presence. Their influence upon the Indians is not very marked, except so far as the inevitable introduction of a bad class of men, who are variously employed in connection with wood, hay, and other contracts. It renders it impossible for the agent to prevent the introduction of whisky.

4. The answer to this question involves a consideration of a number of peculiar conditions or circumstances which affect this agency. To the north of this is a region of country inhabited by hostile Indians, who live upon game principally, but keep up an intercourse with this agency, many of them coming to the agency every fall at the time of distribution of annuity-goods. These people have a powerful influence to keep up the warlike spirit of the young men about the agency. Until these bands are broken up and driven to the agencies, no great degree of discipline can be enforced.

With a military force to break up the hostile bands, a company of Indian soldiers, paid and kept employed, would, in my opinion, be better than white troops. Yet it would take some time to discipline them, and to teach them to arrest an Indian for horse-stealing, which they do not look upon as a crime. The Army has little influence to prevent horse-stealing, as many of the most serious raids in the last few years have been almost in sight of military posts; but this will cease as soon as they are no longer able to dispose of the horses, which will be when Northern Wyoming is occupied by the whites. The number of troops which can be stationed at any one agency is of no use in arresting Indians, as the arrest of an Indian involves a fight with the whole tribe, and possibly a war. Until the Government is prepared to go to that extent in enforcing the treaty, it is not advisable to arrest any Indian charged with a crime.

The use of the Army in treatment of the Indians presents two questions:

1. Should the Army supersede the civil authorities in managing the Indians?

This, in my opinion, would be a complete bar to civilization and progress.

It requires but a moment's reflection to see that the Army could in no way be used to direct the Indians in any industrial pursuit.

It would probably bring about a more regular mode of distribution of food; but that itself would operate against the work of missionaries teaching them farming or other pursuits.

2. Should the Army, under control of the civil authorities, be used in controlling the Indians and enforcing order among them?

This undoubtedly is what should be done. With the Army bearing this relation to the civil authorities, it could be used to advantage in forwarding civilization among the Indians; but with the idea that prevails among military men that they are above all civil law, and that there is something derogatory to them in being controlled by a civil officer, their presence at an agency is a damage rather than a benefit.

In this view of the case it is my opinion that it would not only be "safe and advisable" to form an Indian police, but in the course of one or two years it would supersede the necessity of any white troops at the agency.

So far as this agency is concerned, the progress toward civilization has been marked and rapid. Yet this has been against adverse influences which have at times threatened almost the destruction of the agency. The most powerful influences have undoubtedly arisen from the efforts of a party to transfer the Indian Bureau to the War Department. In order to prove that the civil authorities were inefficient in dealing with the Indians, a constant war has been kept up against the agent. Disreputable

persons living among them have been encouraged to work upon the suspicious mind of the Indian to dissatisfy him with his agent, and stir up a spirit of discontent, and in some instances actual hostility.

The false and malicious accusations of these men have found indorsers among those who stand high in society, and Army officers have degraded their profession in bringing parties to this agency to write up and publish their falsehoods. Yet, notwithstanding these influences, I have been able to bring the Indians more and more under my control, until at this time they are a comparatively orderly community. If under such circumstances these Indians can be controlled without other than the mere presence of troops, they certainly will in a short time need no troops, when such influences are removed.

The greatest need in disciplining the Indians is a system of laws, applicable to his circumstances, and courts to try and punish offenders at the agency. No good can arise in arresting an Indian and carrying him away from his people to try and punish him.

It presents to their minds only one phase of their law of revenge, but gives them no conception of justice, which is one of the most difficult things for an Indian to understand.

Another change which should be effected at this agency, and which would tend to remove the necessity for troops, is the division of this into a number of smaller agencies. The last census shows at this agency 9,136 Sioux and 3,737 Cheyennes and Arapahoes. The Sioux are divided about equally into the Ogalallas, Wazazies, and Kiocssies.

I would recommend that this agency be retained for the Ogalallas; the Cheyennes and Arapahoes be placed on the head of Hat Creek and the Running Water; the Wazazies be placed on the Running Water opposite this agency; and the Kiocssies placed on the Running Water fifty or sixty miles east. This agency might be made the depot for supplies if thought advisable. This would scatter the Indians and enable the agents to have more direct personal control over them. This agency is too large for any agent to manage, and at the same time have such personal intercourse with the Indians as is desirable.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. J. SAVILLE,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. F. H. SMITH,
Secretary Board of Indian Commissioners.

Letter from H. W. Bingham, United States Indian agent.

CHEYENNE RIVER AGENCY, DAK.,
October 21, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith answers to questions contained in circular dated August 1, 1875, received from Hon. C. B. Fisk, chairman, and trust the same will be found satisfactory.

1. There are two companies of the Seventeenth United States Infantry stationed at this agency. Their buildings almost join those of the agency, the dividing line being a small creek which empties into the Missouri River at this point.

2. The troops are needed for the protection of life and property from the more evil-disposed Indians.

3. The presence of troops is not as objectionable to the Indians as might be expected. As a general rule, the advent of military in the Indian country is regarded by the Indians as a hostile movement on the part of the whites; but such feeling gradually dies off, and the Indians become reconciled, and look on the troops as friends instead of enemies. Their presence is always a guarantee of peace and good order, as far as the Indians who reside permanently at the agency are concerned; and even among those who are less friendly, the fact of a military force being present has a salutary effect. Their morals or progress in civilization are, in my opinion, neither advanced nor retarded by the troops.

4. In case it was deemed prudent to remove the military force now stationed here, I would consider the organization of an armed Indian police of no earthly use or assistance. The arrest of criminals could not be effected by such a force, as Indians are always more inclined to protect fugitives from justice than to deliver them up to the proper authorities. I would not recommend either the removal of the troops or the appointment of Indians as police or soldiers.

The Indians of this agency have been inclined to peace and friendship since the arrival of troops among them, but the withdrawal of all restraint might generate an idea of independence that in all probability would lead to disastrous results. So long as the military authorities confine themselves to the duties they are intended to perform in this country—as they do at this agency, I am happy to say—I have no apprehensions of trouble; but if the Indians were placed under the immediate control of the troops, I am not prepared to make the same assertion.

H. W. BINGHAM,
United States Indian Agent.

CHEYENNE RIVER AGENCY, DAK.,
October 20, 1875.

Letter from Wm. H. Fanton, special Indian agent.

SPECIAL INDIAN AGENCY,
Fort Belknap, Mont., September 18, 1875.

SIR: No military force is stationed upon this reservation, but twelve miles from the southwestern boundary, at Fort Benton, ninety-five miles from this agency, a semblance of a military force is attempted to be maintained.

This force is seldom employed in connection with the Indian service except for escort duty to timid inspectors, other visitors, and valuable merchandise-trains. It is needed mainly for the intimidation and restraint of a large class of white men, who usually congregate upon all remote frontiers, and who, at this point, are largely engaged in illicit traffic and association with the Indians.

Stationed upon the reservation or at the agency their presence would be decidedly objectionable to these Indians, and sooner lead to hostilities than prevent them. Their influence upon the Indians tends to the extreme of immorality, and utterly prevents progress in civilization. This is especially evinced in the Indians attached to this agency, who have for forty years, as I am informed, been intimate with the military forces upon the frontier, and from them gained all the vices, disease, &c., attendant upon the lowest grades of civilized life, while none of the virtues have been inculcated.

A properly-organized police, with judiciary power not too remote, and located in other hands than most of the local residents, would, in my estimation, prove most salutary and advisable, and entirely supersede the necessity of a military force, which is too entangled by technicalities for application to Indian service, as at present required. In illustration, the military at Fort Benton consider they are to act only "upon information;" in most cases the agent must be its source, and he is at too remote a point to enable action to be taken at proper time for insuring any success or benefit.

Letter from Peter Whaley, late United States Indian agent.

MISSOULA, Mont., October 25, 1875.

SIR: Your circular-letter, dated Washington, D. C., August 1, 1875, asking information as to the extent the military forces of the country are brought into requisition in the administration of the Indian service, and whether, in this particular, any change would have a tendency to promote the efficiency and purity of the service, was duly received.

In answer, I must say there is no military force stationed upon or close to the Jocko reservation, the nearest being some two hundred miles distant—Fort Baker. The troops of this post are supposed to escort the confederated tribes of the Flathead nation to and from their hunting-grounds on the tributaries of the Judith and Yellowstone Rivers.

During my residence of twelve months at the Flathead agency I was favored with but one visit of the military—one lieutenant and three privates. The Indians at the agency regarded their presence with indifference; yet the headmen of the tribes, when speaking of the probability of establishing a military post upon or close to the limits of their reserve, seemed to regard it as a move that would set at once to rest the fears of the white settlers without, and check the wild spirits of their volatile young men within their reservation.

As regards the moral influences of a military force in the midst of a peaceful, impoverished community of Indian women and children, the honorable Board of Indian Commissioners know enough of human nature to foresee the fatal result.

I am of opinion that the organization of an armed Indian police, under proper restrictions and discipline, would be advisable, and prove beneficial if officered by

men who prefer the performance of an honorable and humane duty to all other considerations. Such a force would first teach discipline and order to the Indian police, who would themselves in turn enforce order from others of their tribe, and promote thereby habits of civilization that the expenditure of thousands of dollars could not procure in any other way. Yet it would be well, in the neighborhood of hostile tribes, to have a military force convenient that could enforce obedience from hostile and refractory bands.

The enforcement of such discipline among the tribes would, I am assured, in a few years, entirely supersede the necessity of at least an increase of the Army.

Letter from Henry W. Reed, late United States Indian agent, Fort Hall, Idaho, now of Baldwin City, Douglas County, Kansas.

I see by the New York Christian Advocate of December 2 a request from your board, to persons not now in the Indian service, as to certain items touching the military and Indians, &c. I happened to be appointed an agent for the Blackfeet Indians in 1862, and was for five years, or seasons rather, a special agent looking after the various interests of Indians the whole length of the Missouri River, as well as two trips among the Chippewas of Upper Mississippi, and was also treating with the Missouri River Indians for some three seasons. For two years, ending last December, I was agent of the Ban-nocks and Shoshones, at Fort Hall, serving some two years. I was among the Sioux before any troops were above Fort Randall, and saw them introduced, and have been extensively conversant with the best style of soldiers, as well as those of other caste, especially on the Missouri River and near Fort Hall.

As to the situation at Fort Hall, there are generally what is termed one company there. The fort or camp is some sixteen miles from the agency, over a divide that is impassable most of the winter. The officers when I was there were universally kind and gentlemanly, but they might about as well be in Alaska as there, so far as any help or use for Indians were concerned. Thirty organized Indians as militia or police, with one-twentieth part the pay of soldiers such as could be had *there*, would have been twenty times the use in securing good behavior or enforcing any rule of order. My judgment is, that if you want—especially with such material as much of our Army is now (in soldiers especially) being made up of—the Indian degraded, especially the women, (and the Lord knows many tribes are bad enough now,) it can be done more effectually by soldiers than any other way I know of; and if you want Catholic priests, such as bless Mexico and South America, to play second fiddle to officers to supplant Protestant missionary effort, that is the way to do *that* most effectually. My observation and interests in Indians, and hope of their future, make me recoil at the thought of Indians being placed any more fully under the control of the Army officers.

Letter from Hamson Fuller, special United States Indian agent.

LEMHI AGENCY, IDAHO TERRITORY,
September 20, 1875.

SIR: In compliance with circular-letter of August 1, 1875, I herewith submit my views in answer to the interrogatories contained in said letter:

1. The nearest military post is Fort Hall, two hundred miles.
2. We have no need of soldiers, as far as Indians are concerned.
3. The presence of soldiers is detrimental in civilizing Indians; their intercourse with the females is very degrading. Last spring, when these Indians were on their return from their usual buffalo-hunt they camped at or near Bozeman, Montana Territory, in the vicinity of Fort Ellis, Montana Territory; a discharged soldier from the post entered one of the lodges and attempted to commit a rape in the presence of the woman's husband, whereupon the husband remonstrated, and ordered the soldier from his wigwam; the soldier, using some profane epithets, turned upon the Indian drew his pistol and shot him dead; the soldier immediately fled, but was not pursued by the civil or military authorities; the Indians thought he ought to be punished, but there was no account taken of it; they said it was only an Indian, and thus the matter subsided.

4. The Indians under my care have thus far been friendly with all men, whites and Indians, and I never have any difficulties to settle.

In my judgment and with nearly three years' experience in the management of Indians at this agency, I would much rather that the Army have nothing to do in the management of Indians; and it is true, (as said by one of the chiefs of these Indians to me,) "Has the Great Father no confidence in us, that he wants to place soldiers over us? We are and will be better off without them; soldiers no good." In conclusion, they abhor and detest soldiers.

Letter from Jno. B. Monteith, United States Indian agent.

OFFICE INDIAN AGENT, (NEZ PERCÉ INDIANS),
Lapwai, Idaho Territory, September 23, 1875.

SIR: In reply to "circular-letter" bearing date August 1, 1875, I respectfully submit the following answers:

1. A military post (Fort Lapwai) is located on this reserve, about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of the agency.

2. I believe the post was established about fifteen years ago. At that time fears were entertained of the rising of the Indians in this section of the country, and the presence of the troops here, it is believed, prevented the same.

As to the necessity for the continued presence of the military at Fort Lapwai, I would say it is 100 miles south of west to Fort Walla Walla, and 200 miles to Fort Colville from here. Were these posts garrisoned by a sufficient number of soldiers to enable them to keep three or four squads—more or less, according as circumstances seemed to demand—who should be moving about in such portions of this country as appeared most to require their presence, thus making the impression on the Indian mind that they were under the surveillance of the Government, I do not think that the withdrawal of the troops from Fort Lapwai would be attended with any serious results to the interests of peace, especially if the arrangements suggested by the question in your 4th query should be carried out.

3. Very few of the Indians have anything to do with the soldiers. They look upon their presence here as in accordance with law, and have nothing to say contrary to their remaining.

In regard to the influence exerted upon the Indians by the presence of the soldiers, opinions differ. The Indians living at Kamiah, 60 miles from the garrison and 20 miles from the nearest camp (mining) or town, are much more advanced in civilization than those living in the vicinity of the garrison and Lewiston. At Kamiah I have little or no trouble in managing the Indians; and since I have had charge of this reserve I have found it necessary to arrest but two from Kamiah; while in the vicinity of Lapwai and the garrison I have had several arrested, and confined either at the garrison or agency. As to the influence of the military in respect to morality and good order and progress in civilization, I would say that my observation and experience force on me the conviction that the presence of the military in the midst of a reservation has no tendency to promote morality or civilization among the Indians. It is very well known that intemperance and licentiousness are the besetting and prevailing sins of soldiers, and, so far as Indians come under their influence, the effect is only evil.

4. I think there should be an armed police force established among the Indians, under the control of the agent, to be used in making arrests of any who may be found violating the intercourse laws; and, in order to carry out such an arrangement, I would be in favor of doing away with the two subchiefs and use the money appropriated for their salaries to pay for the services of two or three police. The treaty of 1863, as I understand it, does not bind the Government to pay the salaries of the subchiefs for any length of time, and I am of the opinion that more good would result by such a disposition of said funds than paying it to subchiefs, and allow the agent to select his own police, subject to his orders; and, indeed, if the Government would abolish the appropriation of money for salary of head-chief, I believe the effect would be good. As it is, the electing of chief and subchiefs creates petty jealousies, and does more harm than good. The Government derives no benefit whatever from these officers, and the tribe have but little respect for the parties elected. The money paid to them is principally expended in giving feasts and making presents to the Indians, although I have endeavored to discourage said practices; they do not consider themselves under the direction of the agent, but that their office is an honor, without imposing any service.

The subchief at Lapwai, however, is an exception; he takes hold when called upon, and is always ready and willing.

Letter from W. E. Morford, United States Indian agent.

CAMP APACHE, INDIAN AGENCY,
September 22, 1875.

SIR: In answer to your circular of August 1, 1875, I have to state that I am a newly appointed agent, my letter of instructions from the Hon. Commissioner of Indian Affairs bearing date July 2, 1875. I arrived at my post of duty August 18 and found everything in a very confused state; *vide* my letter to the Department dated August 26. My experience, for the short time I have been here, is much greater and more varied than it would ordinarily have been; consequently I feel myself better qualified to make this report than I should have been otherwise.

In answer to the first question I will say that there are stationed within a quarter of a mile of where the agency buildings were wantonly destroyed, two companies of the Sixth United States Cavalry and two companies of the Eighth United States Infantry. These troops are upon a military reservation, being a part of the Indian reserve.

2. These troops have been variously employed; *vide* reports of Major Ogilby, commanding, and Acting Agent Clum. As regards the need of this military: they are necessary for scouting purposes during the winter months, and as a notice to the Indians that they must keep quiet, but are not needed so near to the agency headquarters; and if my suggestions are acceded to by the Indian Department they will not be within seven miles, sufficiently near for protection should any be needed.

3. In answer to this question I will again refer to the correspondence passed between Commanding Officer Ogilby and Acting Agent Clum, I think in June of this year.

4. An organization of an armed body of Indian police under proper restrictions and discipline, for the enforcement of order, arrest of criminals, &c., would be all that I would require for all the purposes above mentioned; yet I would not dispense with the military at once. I think this force should be mounted and armed, and placed in charge of a proper person, accountable directly to the agent. They should receive the pay of enlisted men, and should be at least thirty strong. With such a body of selected men I will guarantee to dispense with all military in two years.

In addition, permit me to state that the unwarranted action of Agent J. P. Clum has had a very bad effect upon the White Mountain Apache Indians, and has tended to materially retard their civilization. I have asked for an investigation, and sincerely hope that it will be granted at once.

My reports of August 26, and September 15, to the Hon E. P. Smith, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, will fully explain.

Letter from Jno. D. Miles.

OFFICE UNITED STATES INDIAN AGENT,
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO AGENCY,
Darlington, Ind. Ter., Ninthmonth 27, 1875.

I have the honor to report in answer to the queries propounded—

1. There is a military force, consisting of two companies of cavalry and two of infantry, now stationed within two miles of the agency.

2. Troops were stationed at this agency during the summer of 1874 for the purpose of operating against hostile Indians, and have been retained at the agency during the past summer for the purpose of keeping in check the movements of all evil-disposed Indians, and to assist the agent and deputy United States marshals to operate against white horse-thieves and cut-throats.

3. They are regarded as the power of the Government to punish bad Indians and to protect the good. As regards the "moral influence of troops over the Indians for good order and progress in civilization," I have to say that very much depends upon the officer in command, touching privileges taken by subordinate officers and granted to the common soldiery. In this respect there must be harmony and co-operation between commanding officer and agent.

4. A more perfect police organization among the Indians of this agency to operate against Indian outlaws might be expedient and practicable, but to operate against white intruders it would not be expedient or advisable, and could not at present supersede the necessity of military force.

In regard to the manner in which the military are to operate in connection with the Indian agent, when placed upon an Indian reservation. I would respectfully call your attention to the inclosed copy of an order from Maj. Gen. John Pope, department commander, to post commanders, &c., and dated September 26, 1870, which fully defines the powers and duties of officers assigned to duty on the request of an agent.

[General Orders No. 28.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,
Fort Leavenworth, Kans., September 26, 1870.

In order that the exact relations between officers commanding troops and the agents of the Indians on reservations in this department may be clearly understood, the following rules are published and will be carefully observed by all officers on duty in the Department of the Missouri:

1. Indian reservations and the Indians upon them, are wholly under the jurisdiction of the agents in charge, who are alone responsible for the conduct of the Indians, and

for the protection of the rights of person, and property both of Indians and white men, on Indian reservations.

The military forces on or near such Indian reservations are placed there solely to assist the Indian agents to preserve good order on the reservations.

2. Under no circumstances, except specific orders from department headquarters, or higher authority, will any commander of troops assume jurisdiction or exercise control over reservation Indians or their agents, nor originate nor execute any act of their own volition in regard to affairs on such reservations. Whenever the services of troops are needed, it will be necessary for the Indian agent so to state, in writing, to the nearest commander of troops, setting forth the reasons why troops are needed and the specific object to be accomplished.

Upon the receipt of such written statement the military commander will furnish the required military force, always, if possible, to be commanded by a commissioned officer, who will be instructed to report with his detachment to the Indian agent, and to act under his orders. No commander of a detachment will, of his own motion, take any action whatever in relation to affairs in Indian reservations, even under the orders of an Indian agent, unless the agent himself, or some properly authorized subordinate, is present with him and gives the necessary orders.

3. From the foregoing rules, it will be clearly understood that Indian agents must in all cases accompany the troops, whose aid they apply for, and point out to the commander of such troops the acts to be done and the persons to be interfered with.

Troops cannot be used to expel unauthorized traders, or intruders upon Indian reservations, or to seize the goods or other property of such persons, except to act as a posse, under the orders and in the presence of some proper officer or agent of the Indian Department.

4. By closely observing the foregoing rules, the necessary military aid can always be had, and no occasion can arise for controversy or misunderstanding between the Indian Department and the military authorities.

By command of Brevet Major-General Pope :

W. G. MITCHELL,
Brevet-Colonel U. S. A., Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

—

Letter from Isaac T. Gibson, United States Indian agent.

OSAGE AGENCY, IND. TER.,
Tenthmonth 1, 1875.

In answer to circular of August 1, I have to say :

1. That no military force is stationed upon or in the vicinity of the Osage and Kaw reservations. Distance to nearest military post about 175 miles.

2. No troops required on these reservations, but a post should be located at some proper point to arrest parties of young Osages who go to the plains mourning and are apt to commit some depredations.

2. Among peaceable civilizing Indians soldiers would be a detriment. These should be governed by civil officers. Where the Government fails to provide laws and proper officers to execute them, it is reasonable that some manifestation of authority would be required occasionally to remind the disobedient and refractory that they have a master as well as friends. Troops in the distance might be useful. The presence of troops on these reservations would doubtless prove very offensive to the Indians, as they are not regarded as friends of the red men.

4. I have urged the organization of a police force of Indians for the purposes mentioned in this question. They would entirely supersede the necessity of a military force at any time. This police should be under the command of a white man to be useful, as Indians are not capable of administering the white man's laws, which requires a higher state of civilization than I have yet met with, though they may succeed well in governing themselves under Indian chiefs and customs.

No difficulty would be experienced in controlling the Osages and Kaws with a small Indian police, as they have been governed for two years past without any force.

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Letter from Thomas J. Seffords, United States Indian agent, Chiricahua Apaches.

CHIRICAHUA INDIAN AGENCY,
APACHE PASS, ARIZONA,
September 11, 1875.

Hon. F. H. SMITH,

Secretary Board of Indian Commissioners, Washington, D. C.:

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of circular letter from the Board of Indian Commissioners, dated August 1, 1875, requesting information respecting the

extent the military forces of the country are brought into requisition in the administration of the Indian service; and, in reply, respectfully submit the following, viz :

1. The military post of Camp Bowie is situated within one mile of this agency, and has a garrison of one company of cavalry.

2. The troops at Camp Bowie have never been called upon to interfere in any manner with the Indians of this reservation since the treaty was made by General O. O. Howard, in 1872.

3. The Indians do not have any communication with the troops, and outside of the trader's store do not enter the garrison.

They have been accustomed to the presence of troops in Apache Pass since 1862, and regard them the same as they would any other body of Americans.

The Apaches do not entertain any fear of them as soldiers, as they (the Indians) know that they outnumber the troops largely, and that with equal numbers they have never been conquered when pursued to their mountain homes.

4. I have always used these Apaches as soldiers or police whenever I required assistance to retake stolen stock, or force evil-disposed Indians to remain at peace. I do not consider it advisable to elect certain Indians as a police, for the reason that any Indian police are regarded with suspicion by the other Indians; whereas, by calling upon any Indian to assist me in an emergency, it is considered by them that one Indian is as much compelled to preserve order as another, and consequently places every male Indian upon the same footing, and avoids the jealousy and ill-feeling that would arise should certain men be appointed an armed police.

I am without available means to perfect my system, as to make a complete success I require sufficient horses, saddles, and arms to equip ten or twelve men at a moment's notice. Now, I have to select Indians who have good horses, saddles, and arms of their own, and thus often lose invaluable time, when, had I all that I require, I should be able to mount any Indian I wished, regardless of his want of horse or saddle.

Respecting the increasing or diminishing of the military force, I am of the opinion that it should be increased to at least two companies. Camp Bowie is situated in Apache Pass, and is the only post between the Gila River and the Sonora line, with the exception of Camp Lowell, at Tucson, where the inhabitants are sufficiently numerous to protect themselves.

On several occasions the Mexican soldiers have invaded this reservation, and a few months ago attacked a party of these Indians who were gathering acorns.

Should these Indians at any time become hostile, the possession of Apache Pass by the Indians would prevent any travel over the principal mail and passenger route from Arizona eastward.

With the present garrison any call upon the troops to protect travelers or settlements would require the whole company to be of any effect in resisting or pursuing Indians, and the post would, therefore, be without sufficient force to guard the supplies, the average number of enlisted men available being less than forty.

Letter from John P. Clum, United States Indian agent.

OFFICE OF UNITED STATES INDIAN AGENT,
San Carlos, Arizona, September 18, 1875.

SIR: In reply to circular from your office, dated August 1, 1875, I have the honor to submit the following statement:

1. One company is stationed at San Carlos, within one-half mile of the agency, and at Camp Apache are stationed four companies, within half a mile from the site of the old agency. Camp Apache is sixty miles from San Carlos.

2. The nominal purpose for which the troops are stationed on the reservation, is to assist the agent in maintaining order, arresting criminals, guarding prisoners, suppressing mutiny, &c. Since I have been agent I have never asked for a soldier to act as escort, guard, or to do any police duty. Up to April 22, of this year, such criminals as I arrested were confined in the military guard-houses, but on April 22 an order was issued, releasing all Indian prisoners from the military guard-houses, and none have been confined by the troops since. The Indian prisoners at Camp Apache were turned loose upon the reservation by Captain Ogilby, without sending me any warning or subsequent notification of the same. Since April 22, the military have done nothing for me, but have continued to do many things against me. It is unnecessary to state that such military force is not needed on the reservation.

3. In my judgment, the presence of the troops on the reservation since my arrival has been detrimental to the morality, good order, and progress of the Indians under my care.

4. I organized a police-force of Indians more than a year ago. The original number was four. It has since been increased to twenty-five, and are under the command of

Mr. Clay Beauford. They are armed with needle-guns and fixed ammunition, and are styled the San Carlos Indian police-force. The duties of this force are to patrol the Indian camps, to quell disturbances, to arrest offenders, to report any signs of disorder or mutiny, to scour the entire reservation, and arrest Indians who are absent from the agency without a pass. Also to arrest whites who trespass contrary to the rules of the reservation.

Mr. Beauford is now scouting, with a squad of police, west of the agency. A note received from him this morning, says: "I turned back two parties of prospectors yesterday. We will follow the line of the reservation to the Gila, so should you need me before I come in, you will know where to send."

I have a small guard-house, and am building a large one. The guard-house, to-day, has six inmates, one being in chains. An Indian police is the only force that should be used on a reservation in time of peace. They are far more efficient, and entirely supersede the necessity of a military force. For further information relative to this subject, I would respectfully refer you to my monthly and annual reports to the Hon. Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Estimate of cost of horses, saddles, &c., required to equip trailing and scouting parties of Indians at the Chiricahua Indian agency, Arizona.

Twelve horses, at \$85 each.....	\$1,020 00
Twelve saddles and bridles, at \$30 per set.....	360 00
Twelve Winchester repeating carbines, at \$40 each.....	480 00
For purchase of ammunition, repairs, shoeing horses, &c., per annum.....	500 00
Total	2,360 00

The above is the lowest market-price at which the above-named could be procured in this Territory.

THOMAS J. SEFFORDS,
United States Indian Agent, Chiricahua Apaches.
 CHIRICAHUA INDIAN AGENCY, Arizona, September 13, 1875.

Letter from Geo. H. Stevens.

SAN CARLOS, ARIZONA TERRITORY,
 September 18, 1875.

SIR: In answer to circular of August 1, in which the statements of persons not in Government employ was requested, I have the honor to state that I have been among the Apache Indians between nine and ten years, and talk their language well enough to make myself understood or understand them. I took charge of the old Camp Grant agency September, 1872, relieving Agent Jacobs. At the time I took charge Agent Jacobs had a guard of 12 soldiers at the agency, about two and a half miles distant from the military post. Upon taking charge I sent the guard to report to their commanding officer that their services were no longer needed. The Indians requested that this should be done, and volunteered to make any arrest that I should wish made with the guard. Mr. Jacobs had much trouble, the Indians being very insolent. Without the guard, I had no trouble whatever, the Indians being very obedient. I know the influence of soldiers on the morality and good order of Indians to be very bad. I will state how I know: I had charge of the San Carlos agency under Capt. W. H. Brown, Fifth Cavalry, from June 1 until December 6, 1873. During that time the troops stationed here had orders not to interfere with the Indians except at my request. The soldiers were not allowed to visit the Indian camps, and most of the time Indians were not allowed in the military camp. From June 1 to December 6 there were no complaints made against any of the Indians on the reserve. The San Carlos Indians were turned over by Capt. W. H. Brown, December 6, 1873, to Agent J. E. Roberts, nominally, virtually to Capt. George M. Randall, Twenty-third Infantry. The result of his short rule was, 1st, the killing of a number of Americans and Mexicans by the Indians; 2d, the killing of about sixty-five Indians of both sexes by the troops; 3d, the increasing of prostitution and the diseases incident thereto fully fifty-fold. The Verde and Camp Apache Indians were also virtually under military control, and compare most unfavorably with the Indians on the Chiricahua reservation as regards virtue. Lieutenant

Schuyler, Fifth Cavalry, had charge of Indians at Camp Verde, and lived with an Indian woman, not openly as his wife, but secretly, as something to be ashamed of. If the Indians can be believed, and I consider them the best authority, Captain Randall, Twenty-third Infantry, who had charge of Indians at Camp Apache for a long time, also had an Indian woman on the same terms as Lieutenant Schuyler, and Mr. C. E. Cooley, guide and interpreter at Camp Apache, has a plurality of Indian wives, and lives with them openly within the jurisdiction of the commanding officer. I believe that an organized police force of Indians would do more toward keeping the Indians orderly and civilizing them than all the troops that could be placed on the reservations; would be perfectly safe to all but evil-doers, and would entirely supersede the necessity of a military force.

Letter from J. M. Shaw, United States Indian agent.

OFFICE OF SOUTHERN APACHE INDIAN AGENCY,
Ojo Caliente, N. M., September 30, 1875.

SIR: Your favor of August 1 is received. In reply to your inquiries, I will answer them in order as stated.

1. The military force stationed upon this reservation, and at this agency, consists of ten cavalry soldiers, and one non-commissioned officer in charge or command of the guard. This force is entirely under my control and subject to my orders. This force I consider ample and sufficient. My greatest need of them is to give protection and security to the Government property, for which the agent is peculiarly responsible. The large military force formerly stationed with this tribe was dispensed with upon my recommendation, when I took charge of the agency, believing that they, the Indians, should be taught self-control by the proper discipline and influence of the agent. In this I have not been disappointed; thus far I have had no necessity for the military, and have experienced no difficulty in controlling and governing this hitherto unruly tribe. At times, an inexperienced man, unaccustomed to Indian and frontier life, would doubtless feel the need of military protection; but from twenty-five years' experience with Indians I am satisfied that the cases are very rare where they cannot be governed better by a discreet agent than by the force of arms. I have my wife and family among this wild and barbarous tribe, and we all feel a sense of perfect security. The Indians are strongly attached to us, and would at any moment fight in our defense. They are pleased to think I have confidence to rely upon their good behavior, without the presence of a large company of soldiers.

2. The troops so stationed here are needed and employed very rarely; on some occasions to make arrests of persons violating the laws governing intercourse with Indians; and in case an emergency should arise, to have aid at hand. I have used them twice to arrest disorderly Indians, and their presence is a check upon any intrusion of outsiders upon any of the prerogatives of the agent in maintaining order and discipline on the reservation.

3. Their presence is regarded by the Indians in not a favorable light; they would prefer to have none. Their influence in reference to morality is not good when a large force is present, but with a few who are under the control of the agent it need not be deleterious. My soldiers are very orderly and maintain no intercourse with the Indians. I do not allow Indians, men or women, to visit their quarters, and I have not known of a violation of any rule of morality between them and the Indians. We have two military posts within a distance of fifty miles, and my relations with the military are of the most pleasant character; am often visited by the officers, and they speak in the highest praise of the conduct of my Indians, and the manner in which they are governed. My own conviction is that agents should have, as I have, exclusive control of his Indians without interference of the military, except at his solicitation; otherwise the true policy of the Government is subverted, and the civilization and progress of Indians retarded in the same ratio that the agent's influence is weakened.

4. At the present state of civilization of this tribe I could not recommend the organization of an armed Indian police to supersede the use of the military. I would prefer it myself, and were the position of agent more stable and permanent, would not hesitate to advise the measure; but as the position is liable to a change at any moment, and an agent unaccustomed to the character and management of Indians to succeed, he would be exceedingly embarrassed to make a success of the measure. On this ground I could not recommend the measure. As long as I remain I could dispense with the military entirely under such an arrangement; but my successor would perhaps prefer trusting his scalp to the protection of soldiers. My own experience fully approves the policy of the Government in the present manner of governing and civilizing the Indians, and if carried out for a few years, will undoubtedly supersede the necessity of the military in the management of the Indians. At all events, in New Mexico we have never known so quiet and peaceable times with In-

dian tribes as now under the present administration of affairs. At least, this tribe, which has been the terror and dread of all, spreading death and carnage in all parts of the country, are now docile, and quietly submitting to the wholesome restraints and rules of the agent, and citizens rest in peace and security, both of life and property, and to all human prospects never to again return to the war-path. In bringing them under the peaceful influence of the different pursuits of civilization, it will effectually supersede the necessity of military power. Literally, the weapons of war are being converted into implements of husbandry, and peace reigns in all our borders.

Letter from W. D. Crothers, United States Indian agent.

MESCALERO APACHE AGENCY, FORT STANTON, N. M.,
September 22, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of circular-letter bearing date Washington, D. C., August 1, 1875.

In reply to first interrogatory, will state that the agency buildings of the Mescalero Apaches are situated on the Fort Stanton military reservation, and within a few hundred yards of the post. I have, however, taken the responsibility of erecting a temporary building some five miles west of the military post, where I do all my issuing of supplies, and where I have the Indians engaged in farming, this point being on their own reservation.

In reply to second interrogatory: Do not feel that there is any necessity for military assistance in the management of Indians. If there were no soldiers of the United States Army on the frontier the citizens would have a well-organized militia, which would restrain the Indians and protect themselves.

Third interrogatory: Indians appear to have an innate hatred to soldiers, and their presence among them is repulsive, and their association demoralizing and detrimental to their progress in civilization.

Fourth interrogatory: I would not at this time recommend the organization of an armed Indian police among the Mescalero Apaches. There is no question to my mind as to its being a practical thing among many Indian tribes, but the Apaches have not as yet made sufficient progress in civilization to warrant such a step, but with an organized militia of our citizens and an efficient agent would supersede any necessity for the military in the management of Indians.

In regard to the increase of the Army for the management of Indians, I can only give my experience and observation on the subject. I have been acting as Indian agent in this Territory and Arizona for near five years, most of this time at a great distance from any military force, but have never been under the necessity of calling on the military to enforce discipline among the Indians; nor could I, with any propriety, recommend the increase of our Army in the management of Indians. With all due respect for the military, I will say an efficient agent, under the present policy of the Government, will manage Indians without much, if any, assistance from the Army.

Letter from Ben. M. Thomas, United States agent Pueblo Indians.

OFFICE PUEBLO INDIAN AGENCY, TERRITORY OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fé, October 19, 1875.

SIR: Your letter dated Washington, August 1, has been received. My reply has been delayed on account of my absence in the States for two months.

The Indians that I now have in charge are the Pueblos of New Mexico, a very industrious, peace-loving people, requiring no armed force of any kind for their control; so that I need only reply to your general inquiry in regard to the wisdom of increasing or diminishing the use of the Army in the management of Indian affairs.

My experience and observation in the management of Indian affairs, has extended over a period of nearly five years, nearly two years with the Navajo tribe, two years with the Southern Apaches, and one year with the Pueblos.

I am not prepared to state that there is no need for the Army in the management of Indians, because in the case of one or two incorrigibly ugly tribes, troops were used with excellent results, in fact seemed to be absolutely necessary to prevent the Indians from taking the control of matters about the agency into their own hands. But these are exceptional cases, and in nearly all the tribes of which I have any definite knowledge, an Indian police of their own tribe is all the force required. I think it is necessary to keep troops in the country for a few years yet, simply as a show of force, but generally they should be stationed a good many miles outside the limits of the Indian

reservation, and the Indians strictly forbidden to enter any military post, because familiar relations between Indians and soldiers are always decidedly prejudicial to morality, good order, and progress in civilization.

At the only agency that I ever saw entirely managed by the Army department, there was more corruption and more abominations practiced than I ever saw anywhere else.

If incorruptible men, with a good deal of common sense, were more generally appointed as Indian agents, there would scarcely ever be any trouble in Indian affairs.

Letter from J. L. Burchard, United States Indian agent.

OFFICE UNITED STATES INDIAN AGENCY,
ROUND VALLEY RESERVATION,
Covelo, Mendocino County, Cal., October 6, 1875.

SIR: In compliance with your circular-letter of August 1, 1875, you say, "statements from persons not in Government employ, whose position and experience in Indian matters entitle their opinions to consideration, are earnestly desired." I most respectfully inform you that I handed the duplicate of your letter to Dr. W. P. Melendy, a gentleman very competent to judge in the premises, he having once been agent on this reservation when it was first established, and having resided in this valley ever since, has been very familiar with Indian affairs here. I forward his opinion in the case. He has expressed more than asked for, but you can use so much as may in your judgment apply to the subject.

Letter from W. P. Melendy.

ROUND VALLEY, September 12, 1875.

SIR: Yours of the 6th inst., accompanied with circular from the Board of Indian Commissioners at Washington, asking for the opinion of those of experience in the use of military force in the Indian service.

2d question. The Government troops are not needed and are of no use whatsoever.

3. They are regarded by Indians as a strong body of bad men sent here by the great Indian white chiefs at Washington to tyrannize and bring them under subjection.

4. An armed Indian police I do not think would be beneficial. In fact troops stationed near an Indian reservation have a bad influence both morally and religiously. Soldiers will cohabit with Indian women in spite of all good officers.

The agent and employes are abundantly able to govern the Indians, and the proper ones to, I think, especially if the agent be allowed to resort to corporal punishment in extreme cases, this being all the Indians dread. The last year of the four of my administration as agent, I only found it necessary to punish one in this manner.

Letter from Geo. P. Litchfield, United States Indian agent, Drift Creek, Oreg.

OFFICE ALSEA AGENCY, OREG.,
September 25, 1875.

SIR: I herewith acknowledge the receipt of your circular-letter of August 1, 1875, and in reply would state—

1. There is no military force nearer than Portland or Vancouver, which is about one hundred and fifty miles distant.

2. As far as my experience goes, for several past years the presence of soldiers in an Indian country, while the Indians are quiet and peaceable, is a moral injury; but now, through the influence of moral military leaders, such as we now have in Oregon, it might be an improvement on the past history of the coast, which has already been felt in the vicinity where they reside. I allude to General O. O. Howard and his staff.

3. I think that an Indian police is fully adequate in all ordinary occasions, while nothing has transpired within the last two years to require any extra force besides the agent and employes upon this reservation.

While it is necessary to have a military force upon this coast, I see no occasion to increase it on account of the Indians for two reasons, viz: The Indians are becoming civilized and are diminishing very fast in numbers, and, for the most part, they are civil and well disposed. In the early settling of this country soldiers were greatly needed, but such is seldom the case now.

Letter from C. A. Huntington, United States Indian agent.

NEAH BAY INDIAN RESERVATION,
Washington Territory, September 11, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a circular dated August 1, from the chairman of your board, propounding specific inquiries respecting the relations of the military to the Indian service; and in response to said inquiries I beg leave to submit the following statements:

1. The only military force stationed upon Puget Sound (adjacent to which are some ten or eleven Indian reservations) is a small garrison of a fractional company at Port Townsend, a point ninety miles distant from this agency.

2. The troops so stationed are but very seldom called into requisition by officers in the Indian service. The Indians throughout every part of this Territory are at peace among themselves and with the white people, and the civil officers have no difficulty in maintaining control of the tribes and enforcing the regulations of the service.

3. The presence of soldiers is a terror to Indians, because they know they have the power and the right to do violence. It is therefore well to have a small garrison within two or three days' march, that may be called upon in case of insubordination. The fact that such a garrison is within call, of itself, goes far to prevent insubordination, and consequently to supersede the necessity of calling it into requisition. But, as a rule, the farther the rank and file of the soldiery are from the Indians, the better it is, both for the Indians and the soldiers too. The contact is mutually corrupting, and not easily prevented when within reach. The present peace-policy is working out the best of results in this Territory in respect to "morality, good order, and progress in civilization." The increase of the soldiery would, in my judgment, tend to diminish those results rather than augment them.

4. An Indian police, chosen from the more reliable men of the tribe, is very effective in enforcing discipline. I have one such officer in this agency, under a salary of \$25 per month. His services are extremely useful. I could not well do without him. He is better to me without arms than ten soldiers with bayonets, since he never fails to execute my orders, and never by any of the practices of a corrupt civilization corrupts the morals of his people. His appointment and his pay are conditioned upon his fidelity as an officer of the tribe. Hence, the temptation is on the side of efficiency. I have in a few instances had occasion to delegate others as special police for special service, but have never had occasion to arm either the chief or subordinates, and have never failed to have my orders strictly executed.

So far as the Indian service is concerned, I can see no manner of necessity for increasing the military force in this Territory, and as we have but one company stationed upon the sound, I cannot recommend its diminution. Circumstances are liable to arise when military force would be a necessity; and those circumstances are the more liable to arise when it is known that no soldiers are at the service of the civil authorities.

I have occasion to know that the statements above made accord with the sentiments of all right-minded men in our community. Men who express different sentiments, and who advocate an increase of the military force, are men who are interested, directly or remotely, in the trade which a garrison creates, and who allow personal considerations to outweigh the public welfare.

OFFICE QUINAIELT INDIAN AGENCY,
Wyoming Territory, September 13, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of August 1, and in reply to your questions regarding the extent to which the military are employed in the management of Indians, would respectfully state:

1. There is no military force stationed upon this reservation. The only station is at Cape Disappointment, about eighty miles south of this agency.

2. Troops have been required once at this agency, in the last six years, for the arrest and punishment of Indians for insubordination. Their presence at such times has a good effect upon evil-disposed Indians, and in places remote from settlements where the Indians are only partially civilized they are needed, as it convinces them that the Government will compel obedience and protect its agents if needed.

3. The presence of troops permanently located upon reservations, so far as I have been able to judge from opinions of Indians and from personal observation, is not regarded favorably by the Indians and in many instances causes trouble, while their influence in respect to morals, good order, and progress in civilization is not good.

4. I am of the opinion that an armed Indian police would not be safe or advisable among these Indians. A small military force to act as police if required would be preferable, and these should not, in my opinion, be stationed permanently at the agency, but at a distance sufficient to prevent that familiar intercourse which is often the case between the common soldiers and Indians.

In conclusion, I think the only way in which a school can be made a success among these Indians would be to separate the young entirely from their parents and the many bad influences by which they are surrounded. The old Indians do not appreciate the benefits to be derived from civilization, and if any permanent good is accomplished it must be in the young. If a policy could be adopted by which the children of school-going age could be taken and placed where they would be free from the influence of their parents, and compelled to remain in a school where they could receive an education in the different branches of industry, I believe much good could be accomplished, and in order to enforce this policy I think the military could be of assistance.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant.

Letter from John A. Simme, United States Indian agent.

FORT COLVILLE, WASH. TER., September 19, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a communication from the chairman of the Board of Indian Commissioners of the 1st ultimo, desiring information upon the following points, viz:

1. State whether any military force is stationed upon or in the vicinity of your reservation, and within what distance of your agency.

Answer. There is no military force upon the reservation under my charge. The nearest is at Fort Colville, sixteen miles distant from the reservation.

2. For what purpose are the troops so stationed employed or needed in connection with the Indians?

Answer. The troops are employed only in garrison duty. They are only needed on account of the moral effect on the Indians by their presence in the vicinity; they have no immediate connection with the Indians.

3. How is their presence regarded by the Indians, and what, in your judgment, is their influence in respect to morality, good order, and progress in civilization?

Answer. Their presence is regarded with indifference by the Indians, they having nothing to do with them and have no influence in respect to morality, good order, and progress in civilization.

4. Would the organization of an armed Indian police, under proper restrictions and discipline, for the enforcement of order, arrest of criminals, and the prevention of incursions of evil-disposed persons upon your reservation, prove safe or advisable; and to what extent would such an organization supersede the necessity of a military force?

Answer. The substitution of an organized armed Indian police, under proper restrictions and discipline, for the military forces, would prove, in my opinion, both safe and advisable; but I would not advise such substitution until the boundaries of the reservation are properly adjusted.

Letter from James H. Wilbur, United States Indian agent, Washington Territory.

YAKAMA INDIAN AGENCY,

Fort Simcoe, Wash. Ter., September 8, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge a letter from the Hon. Clinton B. Fisk; chairman of the above-mentioned board, dated Washington, D. C., August 1, 1875, requesting information relative to a military force stationed upon, or in the vicinity of, the Yakama Indian reservation.

We have no military force nearer than one hundred and forty miles, and have not had in sixteen years.

Their presence is regarded by the better class of Indians as destructive to morality, good order, and progress in civilization. Judging from the effect produced when this agency was turned over to a military officer for eighteen months, (at the time when all the agencies were manned with military officers,) it would be destructive to everything like industry, morality, and civilization.

This agency suffered a loss of at least \$40,000 during said months. Drinking and drunkenness, gambling and debauching the Indian women, became the common order. Quite a number of the better class of Indians left the agency, and did not return until there was a change of administration.

An Indian police force for the enforcement of order, arrest of criminals, and the prevention of incursions of evil-disposed persons, would be safe, and would supersede, to a great extent, the necessity of any military force. I am persuaded I can take a police force of Indians, say ten men, and arrest and deliver over any renegade Indians or whites of this or the surrounding agencies, with a mere nominal expense.

Letter of John Smith, United States Indian agent.

WARM SPRINGS AGENCY, OREGON,
December 29, 1875.

SIR: Your circular of August 1 was duly received, but various considerations have prevented my presenting the statement desired, but none of them arising from any lack of interest in the subject.

I am glad to be able to state that there are no soldiery anywhere in our vicinity, nor have there been since my residence here. During the first few years after the establishment of the agency here a detachment was stationed here to protect it from the incursions of the Snake Indians, but it is doubtful if their presence was of much benefit, as they failed to prevent them from making raids and destroying and carrying off a large amount of property belonging to the Indians, while it is certain that their influence and example were altogether detrimental; the evidences demonstrating this being so patent that I only expressed my honest sentiment to the commanding officer at Fort Dalles when, a raid being threatened, he made inquiry as to whether I needed any troops for protection, I replied that I preferred the raids of the Snake Indians to the presence of soldiers. It is my candid opinion that there is no one thing that can so completely thwart all the efforts of an agent to enlighten his Indians than the influences exerted by soldiers among them, excepting the unrestricted sale of liquor to them. Nor am I alone in this opinion, for the effects are abundant and conclusive to the mind of any one observing them; and charges that are neither denied nor contradicted, both general and specific, implicating not only privates, but officers, are frequently made in the newspaper publications, and, in fact, it has come to be almost a by-word, and I should dread nothing worse for the Indians under my charge—who probably, for their chances, can show one of the best records, if not, indeed, the best, of any other on this coast—than to have soldiers stationed so near that there would be nothing to prevent their habitual contact, and especially if the restraining influences operating under the present management should be withdrawn.

In regard to the policy of organizing an armed Indian police, my opinion would be, based on my own observation, that for operations affecting only Indians it would be eminently successful. The Warm Spring Indians have been twice called upon by the Government to assist in subduing hostile tribes, and have rendered noble service, notably so in the Modoc war, and I have no doubt but what military operations against all hostile Indian would be rendered vastly more efficient by the employment of adequate bands of Indian scouts who are known to be friendly. Naturally, they are the equals of any others, and, being well armed and equipped, would have much the advantage over the wild bands; besides, the moral support of the Government and the presence of sufficient numbers of regular soldiers would give them greater confidence of success, thereby rendering their operations more aggressive and determined.

Further, they doubtless could be made very useful in bringing back stragglers to their reservations; and if the Department is in earnest in its intentions in this respect, and proposes to follow up the steps already taken with decisive action, the experiment would be well worth trying.

The experiment has been tried here of having the Indians make the arrests and conduct the trials in certain grades of crimes committed among themselves, and is found to work well, and could be relied upon in all cases which agents can feel themselves justified or authorized in dealing with.

There seem, however, to be serious objections to any attempts to using them against the whites, unless under emergencies that cannot be met in any other way, when the principles of self-defense would rule, for its tendency would be to arouse the bitterest opposition and condemnation, not only from the individuals immediately affected, but from all those—and their name is legion—who assert the theory of the inferiority of the Indian race, and their incapacity for improvement, who deride and do what they can to render unsuccessful all enterprises having that end in view, and who believe in their ultimate extinction and demand its speedy accomplishment as the only effectual manner of settling the "Indian question."

These, briefly, are my views and results of my experience, which, I trust, you may be able to make useful to assist in your endeavors to keep the Government from making any changes, except such as may, after careful consideration by those most likely to be influenced by the highest good-wishes for the advancement of the Indians, be deemed of a nature to improve the efficiency of the service in that respect, without being too greatly influenced by mere considerations of cost to the nation, regardless of the inferior quality of service that may be reasonably expected to accompany extreme cheapness, and the vociferations of small politicians and opposers of any and all sorts of reforms that tend to improve the morals and habits of any people.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

102 REPORT OF THE BOARD OF INDIAN COMMISSIONERS.

Letter of W. F. M. Army, late United States Indian agent, Navajo Indians of New Mexico.

WASHINGTON CITY, January 29, 1876.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication in reference to "the wisdom of increasing or diminishing the use of the Army in the management of Indian affairs." In response, I have respectfully to say, that my experience as well as that of my co-worker, "Kit Carson," as he frequently expressed it to me, is "*that the use of the Army has a tendency to demoralize the Indian.*"

In reply to your four points of inquiry, I have to say:

1st. That the last agency that I had charge of was that of the Navajoes on the western border of New Mexico; the nearest military post is Fort Wingate, 45 miles from the Navajo Indian agency.

2d. My experience with the military at that post satisfied me that the soldiers were only kept there to guard their own subsistence. I made various applications for help and was never furnished with it, and became well convinced *that it would be economy for the Government to abandon it.*

3d. The chiefs and immoral Indians regard the presence of the soldiers with favor, as they are enabled thereby to obtain whisky through the immoral traffic of the squaws and soldiers; and my judgment is that the influence of the soldiers, in respect to morality, good order, and progress in civilization, is very bad, and if continued, will end in the entire demoralization of the Navajo Nation as well as the soldiers who are allowed to associate with them. In this view I have been sustained by the surgeons of the Army stationed at that post; a copy of the letter of one will be found on page 331, Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for 1875.

4th. In answer to your fourth point, I have to state that General O. O. Howard, when special Indian commissioner, recommended the establishment of an Indian police at the Navajo agency. One hundred Indians were selected and acted as police for over a year, and were paid for their services during their enlistment, and while they were employed the depredations of the Indians were much less than any previous year, and nearly all the stolen property was recovered by the police and restored to the agent to the owners. About the time I took possession of the agency, this wise policy was abandoned in consequence of the recommendation of my predecessor. I urged the continuance of the police and predicted trouble if it was disbanded. I was not allowed to continue it, and *the trouble came*, and was encouraged by the military, who took Indians into the military service against the consent of the agent, which Indians, while under the command of Maj. William Redwood Price, Eighth Cavalry, United States Army, stole sheep belonging to citizens of Santa Aña County, New Mexico. (See Report of Commissioner of Indian Affairs for 1875, page 331, and other testimony on file at the Indian Department.)

In conclusion, I am forced to say that after an experience of many years with Indians and soldiers, their association and contiguity has always tended to the demoralization of both Indians and soldiers; and that the military, owing to their education and habits, are unfit to direct in the work of "civilizing, christianizing, and making self-sustaining the Indians of our country," to whom we owe a debt in justice and humanity which we should pay by elevating them rather than demoralizing and annihilating them.

For forty years I have given my almost entire attention to the consideration of the amelioration of the condition of the black and red man, the down-trodden races of this continent, and I have found no plan better for the civilization of the red man than the plan now presented in the petition and bill of Peter Cooper and other good men associated with him, a copy of which is herewith. This "bill for an act to regulate Indian affairs" may have its defects, but as I believe it will tend to more good to the red man than any other plan, I respectfully ask that your board of commissioners will give it a full and favorable consideration.

JANUARY, 1876.

Referring to the inclosed circular from your office, and feeling a deep interest in the subject-matter of the circular, I submit that I have been superintendent of Indian Affairs for the State of Oregon, and subsequently chairman of the late Modoc peace commission; and believing that I have had abundant opportunity to observe the workings of the military department of the Government in connection with Indian affairs in Oregon, I herewith presume to answer the above questions according to my opinions as formed while in the service and during a residence of a life-time on the frontier.

1st. There is a military fort within the outboundaries of Klamath reservation and within five miles of Klamath Indian agency.

2d. The fort was built for the purpose of protecting the settlers of that country against the Indians. The precaution was unnecessary, as the Klamath Indians never had been at war with the white men of the country. It was, and is, a needless post and should be removed without delay.

3d. The Indians of Klamath have always regarded the presence of troops as an im-

peachment of their loyalty and integrity. While an officer of the Indian Department I was petitioned by the chiefs of Klamath to have the soldiers removed from Fort Klamath, giving as a reason for the demand that the soldiers demoralized their women. It is my opinion that the presence of soldiers among the Indians did debauch them; and further, that had no soldiers been stationed in the Klamath country, *that no Modoc war would have occurred, and still further, that, had no breach been made (by the soldiers) to the compact for an armistice that no assassination of the peace commission would have transpired.*

4th. I believe that on every reservation in Oregon a police force could be organized of Indians which would be entirely safe to the white people of the country, and adequate to meet all demands of the Government for the preservation of peace among the Indians.

The Indian is a man, and whenever treated as a man he will behave like a man. I know of no instance of contact of soldier and Indian in which the latter have not been debauched and demoralized.

A faithful administration of law by the Government, without partiality, would insure the perfect obedience to law by Indians everywhere.

All of which is respectfully submitted with the assurance that the declarations herein made will be substantiated by me with incontrovertible proofs whenever called upon.

My address in Washington City is No. 457 Missouri Avenue, and in New York City No. 18 Beach street.

A. B. MEACHAM.

Hon. F. H. SMITH,
Secretary of Board of Indian Commissioners.

RESULTS OF THE PRESENT INDIAN POLICY.

The following circular-letter was addressed to the Indian agents, and replies thereto are appended:

BOARD OF INDIAN COMMISSIONERS,
Washington, D. C., November 6, 1875.

SIR: It is the purpose of the Board of Indian Commissioners to present, in their annual report for this year, if the information is at hand, some of the comparative net results of the present Indian policy, and to that end they request from you a brief and concise statement of such results in respect to the Indians under your charge, showing what progress has been made in—

1. Education.
2. Industry.
3. Adoption of the costumes and habits of civilized life.
4. Disposition of individuals or families to occupy and cultivate separate tracts of land as permanent homes.
5. The cultivation of friendly relations with surrounding white neighbors.
6. Generally, what, if any, progress has been made toward the discontinuance of tribal relations, and preparation for the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship.

To enable the board to avail themselves of the information sought, an immediate response will be necessary, and is respectfully solicited.

Please address the secretary of the Board of Indian Commissioners, at Washington, D. C.

CLINTON B. FISK,
Chairman.

Letter of W. C. McCarthy, Indian agent.

WEBSTER, JACKSON COUNTY, N. C.,
November 26, 1875.

SIR: At the earliest possible moment I have the honor to reply to your printed communication of the 6th instant, as follows:

The Eastern Cherokee Indians can scarcely be said to exhibit any progress, hitherto, as "net results of the present Indian policy," in view of the fact that they have, until quite recently, received but little care from the Government, and the efforts which are now making for the amelioration of their condition are still in incipency.

During the last year suits were prosecuted for them in the Federal courts, which secured to them the titles to lands which they were occupying, and which, through various complications, they were in danger of losing.

They were, up to that time, in a state of extreme poverty, attributable in great measure to the disastrous effects of the late civil war.

A fair beginning has been made in the work of relieving their destitution.

By act of March 3, 1875, their tribal fund, amounting to about \$81,000, together with several years' accrued interest, was appropriated for certain objects tending to the permanent improvement of their condition.

In February last, a special agent was appointed to take charge of their affairs.

Regarding your points of inquiry, *serialim*, as to—

1. *Education.*

Almost nothing has been done for them in former years. They had a few schools at irregular intervals previous to the war; none worthy of the name since.

A system of education is now being inaugurated under Government care. One very successful school of four months' duration has just closed. Several others are to be commenced immediately. We hope, by the end of another year, to show good results.

2. *Industry.*

All depend on agriculture for subsistence. A few have some slight knowledge of some mechanical arts, such as blacksmithing and carpentry.

In point of diligent and intelligent application to labor, they are not much behind their white neighbors, which, unfortunately, is far from being a strong statement. Hemmed in by gigantic mountain barriers, whites and Indians alike are sadly separated from civilizing influences. The methods of agriculture are very inefficient, and tools and appliances are scarce and of the rudest description. During the past summer a considerable amount of stock and tools has been distributed to them, and our proposed system of education embraces instruction in agriculture.

3. *Adoption of the costumes and habits of civilized life.*

All wear the citizens' dress. All live in houses built of logs, and without windows, but much the same as the mass of white people about them occupy. Generally speaking, their external condition is quite similar to that of the poorer class of whites. Some remnants of Indian custom and habit cling to them, but they are fast disappearing. Their old superstitions appear most plainly in the treatment of diseases. Incantations, charms, and spells are largely mingled with the herbal remedies on which they rely.

They may be called a Christianized people. They have several churches and native preachers, and a large proportion of the population are communicants.

Traces of paganism appear in their dances and some other observances, but only the effete form remains.

4. *Disposition of individuals or families to occupy and cultivate separate tracts of land as permanent homes.*

Quite a large number own farms individually. Many occupy farms for which they have contracted years since, and have never been able to complete payment. Arrangements are now pending by which these lands will pass into the common possession of the band.

On the common lands the Indians are settled as a rule, in individual occupancy, holding and cultivating their tracts as if they were their own.

It is in contemplation before many years to distribute their lands to them in severalty.

At present they afford many striking illustrations of the evil effects of communism.

5. *The cultivation of friendly relations with surrounding white neighbors.*

It is the universal testimony of the whites that there are no more peaceable, friendly, and law-abiding people in the country than these Indians. They have been exposed to impositions which have sometimes provoked reprisals, but their disposition is quiet and inoffensive.

6. *Progress toward the discontinuance of tribal relations, and preparation for the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship.*

There is a very apparent progress in this direction. Their tribal institutions have for years undergone a process of disintegration. Hereditary chieftainship has disappeared, and with it most of the attendant power and authority. They now elect a chief for a limited term, and limit his power by a constitution.

They show an increasing disposition to learn the white man's method of transacting business and conducting deliberations. They are abandoning the Indian habit of voting by the whole population, men, women, and children in arms, and restricting the franchise to males of a specified age. In fact they need but a little instruction and encouragement to place them on the same footing in these respects, as white citizens.

They enjoy a quasi citizenship under the laws of North Carolina, and have occasionally voted at State elections.

They have now one great need—instruction in the English language; and this not merely to open to them the treasures of education, but to enable them to transact business with white men, free from the danger of imposition and fraud to which they are now exposed. A few years with good schools and model farms, the rising generation lifted out of the present abyss of ignorance, and these poor people will be prepared to take rank as citizens of the republic, and enter on the broad highway of enlightened and Christianized civilization.

Letter of D. Sherman, Indian agent.

AGENCY FOR INDIANS OF NEW YORK,
Forestville, N. Y., November 13, 1875.

SIR: In response to your circular-letter dated the 6th instant, I have the honor to state that 1,685 Indian children have attended the thirty schools in the agency during some portion of the past year. The average daily attendance during the thirty-two weeks the schools were taught was 555. Thirty-one teachers have been employed, about one-fourth of whom were Indians. The Indian teachers, when properly trained for their work, succeed quite as well as white teachers, and are generally preferred.

The prejudice of the Indians against educating their children is fast wearing away, as is evidenced by the marked improvement during the past four years, both in regularity of attendance and in the increased numbers of the Indian children at school.

The Indian population on the eight reservations in the agency is 4,955, of whom about 1,500 can read and speak the English language. Of the latter number about 1,000 are between the ages of five and twenty-one years.

The Indians in this agency have increased in numbers 866 during the past ten years, and during the same period their wealth in individual property has nearly doubled.

These Indians are self-sustaining, and are generally engaged in farming, and have adopted the habits of civilized life. They have fenced and under cultivation 22,989 acres of land, being over one-fourth of their reservations. On the two most populous reservations in the agency, Cattaraugus and Allegany, they annually elect their officers by ballot. They prosper most on those reservations on which the tribes own the lands in fee, and where their lands have been practically allotted.

All are on friendly relations with their neighbors.

There is an increasing desire among the Indians of New York to become citizens. The great objection to this by the Indians of the Cattaraugus and Allegany reservations, and to an allotment and division of their lands in severalty, grows out of the old claim of the Ogden Land Company to the ownership of these two reservations. The Indians are apprehensive, and not without some reason, that if their tribal relations were dissolved the Ogden Land Company might dispossess them.

Letter of Geo. I. Betts, Indian agent.

OFFICE OF MICHIGAN INDIAN AGENCY,
Lansing, November 11, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor, in response to the circular of the 6th instant, from your honorable board, calling for information respecting the results of the present Indian policy, to state that I am most thoroughly persuaded, from a critical observation, and practical knowledge of the workings and spirit of the present Indian policy of the Government, that the Indians of our nation never before have had so benign and profitable care and treatment as by this sincere and beneficent policy; while at the same time our great nation had never before so risen to the dignity of a generous magnanimity as it has toward this weak and helpless branch of the great brotherhood of man, in this "peace policy," and present administration of Indian affairs. The universal testimony of the Indians of my agency, and all who have had occasion to observe, is that our Indians have never before been so satisfied and prosperous as they have during the last four or five years. One of the striking evidences that I observe among the Indians of this agency is, a confidence in the honesty and honor of the Government to fulfill its promises, and do even more than the stipulations of treaties, for the Christian civilization of the Indians.

One of the most discouraging sentiments that I found among the Indians, when I first became Indian agent, and indeed long before, while I was laboring among them as superintendent of Christian missions, was their want of confidence in the integrity and generosity of the United States Government. This faithlessness had a vicious and paralyzing influence upon the Indian mind and character. Their general opinion was that their Great Father was false and unfriendly toward his red children. This made them suspicious of and indifferent to the counsels and efforts of all the representatives of the Government to do anything with and for them. But I am happy to say that I plainly observe a great improvement in this regard among my Indians. They do begin to see and feel that there is honor and a generous design to do for them the very best things for their prosperity and progress in civilization. It has been my aim to bring them to see and feel these facts. These general remarks are gratuitous, and may be thrown aside if of no value to you, but they impress me as fundamental, for without a loyal and loving confidence in the Government, there will be no cheerful or earnest acquiescence in its dictates and directions. Then, again, knowing the wishes of this policy to be that the Government agency should heartily co-operate with the church agencies in advancing the Indians in Christian civilization, I have willingly

sought to carry out this design, and I have no doubt have contributed considerably toward their progress in this important feature of their life in this and the world to come.

Educationally I cannot say so much for the progress of our Indians as in some other respects. Owing to the full and final expenditure of treaty-funds for this purpose with the Ottawas and Chippewas, all but one of the Government schools have been closed. But the schools with the Chippewas of Lake Superior, and of Saginaw, Swan Creek, and Black River, are doing better than ever before, and some of the children are studying grammar, geography, and arithmetic with good success. One teacher in her last report says, "One Indian while visiting the school expressed himself greatly pleased with the fact that his children could read and write, and were doing so nicely in arithmetic. Thirty-six examples were solved in practice last month by the class in practical arithmetic."

Industry.—It has been my constant effort to stimulate the Indians to regular industrial pursuits, and I am happy to state that I have witnessed during the past year a great improvement over all former years.

To encourage them I have had their lands allotted to them in severalty during the past four years. This has been an advantage to them. They have felt the dignity of being personal owners of land, and many of them have taken hold to clear up and make a farm. Some shiftless ones have sold their lands, but white men have taken these lands and benefited the Indians by their example, and showing them what can be done and how to do it in the way of farming; so that after all, though some have squandered away their land, yet on the whole the Indians are the gainers, and the value of property is advanced, while the shiftless are no worse off than they were before.

With the "Chippis of Lake Superior" I tried the experiment of offering a reward of \$5 for each acre they would prepare for seed, and seed enough to plant it. It worked well; and last fall, or rather this fall, they harvested 50 per cent. more than they ever did before. I am convinced that in these ways alone the permanent material prosperity of the Indians can be secured. Hunting and fishing for a living will demoralize and degenerate an Anglo-Saxon. I try to discourage these pursuits and develop those of agriculture, and we are making slow but certain progress in this respect.

All our Indians have adopted the costumes of civilized life, as far as their means will allow, except, perhaps, a few of the oldest of them; and universal good-will and peaceable relations exist toward surrounding whites.

The tribal relations of the Ottawas and Chippewas were dissolved in 1872. This tribe numbers about 6,000. At a council this fall with the Chippewas of Lake Superior, it was determined to seek such legislation this winter of Congress as will bring them into the full condition of citizens of the State and nation. Practically, all our Indians are citizens and vote at our State and national elections. Many of them hold municipal offices.

So that on the whole we can see a vast difference between the Indians in Michigan of to-day and those of a few years ago. No military forces or administration is required or desired for the Indians of Michigan. I confidently believe that such a type of administration of Indian affairs would be no more consonant with the genius of Christian civilization than it would be if applied to our white population.

I am a firm believer in the efficiency and success of the present Indian policy.

Letter of Jos. C. Bridgman, Indian agent.

U. S. INDIAN AGENCY,
Keshena, Wis., November 16, 1875.

DEAR SIR: In reply to your circular of November 6, I would say that of the three tribes in charge of this agency the Menomonees being less civilized than either the other two, (the Oneidas and Stockbridges,) the facts given will have special reference to my observations with this tribe.

Of course, with only a year's life among them, my experience is limited, and perhaps my impressions may not be sustained; and how far they may be the result of the present Indian policy I cannot say.

1. **Education.**—It is and has always been deplorably low, owing to the fact that the home influence counteracts any labor tending to civilization taught in school; this, with irregular attendance, renders school-labor of little value, and it will always be so until a boarding or manual-labor school is established, where the children will be constantly under a better teaching.

2. **Industry.**—There is a marked improvement in this respect. With a few exceptions, all the able-bodied men are not only willing but anxious to work, while but a few years since, I am told, it was seldom one could be found who would labor at all, or at most but a few days at a time. Now Indians, for lumbering especially, are considered the best of help.

3. Nearly all of this tribe dress in citizens' clothes, have their own homes, although a few still spend the winter months in hunting. This is a great change within the last five years, when nearly half the tribe wore their blankets and spent more time in hunting and fishing than in labor.

4. Nearly or quite each family has its little clearing, from one to fifty acres, of which he is very jealous, and the statistics forwarded in my annual report to the Hon. Commissioner of Indian Affairs show commendable agricultural industry, which is improving every year.

5. As this tribe are not warlike in their nature, they never had any disturbance with surrounding white neighbors.

6. Many of the better class and most intelligent are looking toward citizenship, and not a few have already made themselves homes off the reservation, with a view of severing their tribal relations, in which they should have the sympathy and encouragement of all who would lift them out of the present manner of living, and help them to become true and loyal citizens.

Among the employes of this tribe, who have lived here for ten years past, one says: "Could the Christian public but see the contrast, as between the old and new policy—the orderly and quiet gatherings on pay-days now with the boisterous, noisy crowds, filled with whisky, always on said occasions heretofore, the comfortable log and frame houses of to-day against the bark wigwams of but a few years past, the gathering in and laying by of corn, potatoes, wild rice, &c., against the empty and cheerless store-rooms of the past—there would be but one voice as to the wisdom thereof, and one earnest, united prayer that so long as there is a red man of the woods to gain for civilization and Christianity, the peace policy, and no other, may govern the powers that exercise authority over the race."

Letter of J. L. Mahan, Indian agent.

OFFICE OF UNITED STATES INDIAN AGENT,
CHIPPEWAS OF LAKE SUPERIOR,
Saint Paul, Minn., November 30, 1875

Your circular of November 6, 1875, reached me this day, on my return from quite an extended visit among my Indians in the interior of Wisconsin. I feel thankful to our Father in heaven for the favorable "lookout" at the close of another year. My Indians are to-day in better condition to battle against a cold winter than many of their white neighbors. I do not have to beg my Indians to work; but the cry is, give us something to do. The appropriations this year have been so small that I have had little opportunity to see how much improvement could be made over former years. I have gone steadily forward with such means as I have had, and the result has more than exceeded my expectations.

My people have continually advanced in education and industry; this is evidenced by the general appearance of their persons and homes, and is admitted to be a fact by both friend and foe. The following will give you some idea of the results of the year's work:

830 acres are cultivated by Indians.

150 acres broken up by Indians.

510 rods of fencing made.

1,000 male Indians labor in civilized pursuits with their own hands.

484 families are engaged in agricultural pursuits.

322 families are engaged in other civilized occupations.

Mixed-bloods about half of above number in addition.

My Indians have raised about 12,000 bushels of potatoes, 1,050 bushels of corn, 1,100 bushels of oats, 30 bushels of beets, 2,000 bushels of turnips, 25 bushels of onions, 35 bushels of beans, and have cut about 460 tons of hay. They have cut 1,450 cords of wood. They have sold about \$24,000 worth of furs. One hundred and seventy houses are occupied by Indians; seven new houses have been built during the year.

Estimate the result of all the labor performed during last year by the Bad River Indians at nearly \$80,000; this would give nearly \$100 to each man, woman, and child on the reserve. A gentleman who has been among my Indians for a great many years remarked to me not long since, that, although he favored the War Department idea for the wild Indians, he did hope and pray for a very liberal, kind, and encouraging policy for the half-civilized Chippewas; humanity demands that the poor Chippewas be granted a helping hand now. Many of my Indians have from one to five barrels of flour in their houses for the winter; besides, all have what potatoes they will want for the winter; this has never been recorded of the Chippewas before, and it indicates that the Indian is learning to provide for the cold winter, as their white neighbors do. This is possibly the best indication of advancement in civilization that I have to offer, yet many other good things might be said; for instance, a young chief, belonging to one of the Flambean bands, built a house during last fall on their

reserve; when finished he furnished it with bed, chairs, table, and dishes, knives, forks, spoons, &c., and carried an eight-dollar cook-stove on his back 30 miles to enable him to live like the whites do; this he told me with his own tongue.

Two thousand three hundred and thirty-four Indians come directly under the civilizing influence of the agency; 1,000 mixed-bloods do the same. I have five schools and six teachers, with one hundred and ninety-six scholars. Thirty-four Indians have learned to read during the past year; twelve have learned trades; two hundred have asked and received medical attention during the same time.

Two hundred and twelve Indians can read in English, 411 in Chippewa, and 284 in English and Chippewa. Of the three churches, (two Catholic,) one only is prosperous, it being the Presbyterian church attached to the Adanat mission. They have an Indian membership of about fifty souls, and a more interesting, enthusiastic, and truly devoted little band of worshipers you cannot find in the State. Most of my Indians dress in civilized costumes, and many have adopted habits of civilized life; they generally prefer to live in houses if they could have homes comfortable. Their roaming disposition is fast giving way, and many are anxiously waiting for the Government to assist them in obtaining a home. The disposition of individuals to own, occupy, and cultivate separate tracts of land is general. The cry comes up from Bad River reserve, "Give us our eighty acres, as per treaty-stipulations, and assist us to build houses, and our wigwams will be abandoned." Allotments of eighty acres each to one hundred and sixty individuals have been made upon this reserve during the past season, and the cry has been taken up by the Las Court, Oreille, and Red Cliff bands. One thousand houses could be built by Indian labor at this agency and occupied by Indian families during the coming year, if I had the funds to purchase pork and flour to pay for the labor. The Indians desire civilized life, and know how to appreciate home comforts. They are perfectly friendly toward their white neighbors. The question of citizenship was agitated the past season among the Red Cliff bands and it seemed to be much desired, and the fact was reported to the Department, but there being no law authorizing it, the honorable Commissioner of Indian affairs declined to give any instructions. If inducements could be offered individual Indians to abandon their tribal relations, I have no doubt but many would gladly accept. The influence of most of my chiefs has been exerted against all attempts at civilization. The young men readily see the personal advantage of civilized life and are longing for relief through the Government. The chiefs, seeing their power passing away, are becoming restless and uneasy. In my opinion, the time is at hand for the friends of Indian civilization to give these young men a helping hand, to enable them to throw off the fetters that bind them to this, the worst form of barbarism.

The above, it is hoped, will answer, in part, your purpose, and is respectfully submitted.

Letter of R. M. Pratt, Indian agent.

RED LAKE AGENCY, MINN.,
November 26, 1875.

GENTLEMEN: I herewith send you a brief report of the condition and progress of the Red Lake Chippewas, in accordance with your circular of the 6th instant.

Education.—There is no boarding-school here. There is, however, a day-school, with an average daily attendance during the last term of fourteen, a fair result for a day-school among any heathen people. There is a growing desire on the part of these Indians to have their children attend school; and if a suitable boarding-school could be opened they would patronize it well from the commencement.

Industry.—Under this head I am happy to say there is decided progress. The Indians are each year more industrious; more willing to cast aside their ancient habit of indolence; to clear up and cultivate more land; to raise larger crops; to have better homes; and to live more like white men.

Adoption of the costumes and habits of civil life.—I can report progress here again, as nearly all are anxiously striving to dress like white people, and live like them, and I believe all would do so if in possession of the means to accomplish the object. They are, of course, very poor; and while desirous of improvement, they start from so low a place, and with so little to assist them, their elevation is necessarily slow.

Disposition to occupy and cultivate separate tracts of land as permanent homes.—They do this now; each family has its own tract, unsurveyed and unfenced though it be, yet with well-known and respected boundaries; and these Indians are decidedly averse to any removal to any other homes. They cling tenaciously to their own homes.

Do they cultivate friendly relations, &c.?—They do, most unquestionably.

What progress toward discontinuing tribal relations, &c.—Their chiefs are well liked, as a general thing, and if no steps be taken to change this relation they will, doubtless, continue to acquiesce; but the tribal relation is weakening each year, and, in my judgment, the masses would gladly welcome its abrogation.

Letter of James Whitehead, Indian agent.

LEECH LAKE, CASS COUNTY, MINN., Nov. 29, 1875.

SIR: In reply to your communication of the 6th instant, would say:

1. *Education*.—Am obliged to report but little progress toward permanent results for their benefit.

2. *Industry*.—Quite a number show their willingness to work, and wish to improve their mode of gaining a livelihood.

3. *Adoption of the costumes and habits of civilized life*.—Many of the young men and women already wear citizen's dress, and many more would do so if they had work so as to earn money to keep them in clothes in the future.

4. *Disposition to make permanent homes, &c.*—Several families are ready and anxious to do so, if they had assistance to make a start, good agricultural land, and adequate laws for their protection.

5. *Friendly relations with whites*.—All are anxious to continue the present friendly relations and intercourse.

6. *Discontinuance of tribal relations*.—This must be done for them, as they are practically incapable of organization toward this end. It can only be accomplished by proper education and the establishment of law and order.

Letter of Lewis Stowe, Indian agent.

CHIPPEWA AGENCY,

White Earth, Minn., November 30, 1875.

SIR: In reply to circular-letter of the 6th instant I have to say—

1. The Mississippi Indians under my charge were moved on this reservation seven years ago, in a poor, low, and degraded condition. Since that time many of them have been raised to be as respectable men and women as you will find in any civilized land—good church-going Christian men and women—and have a great desire to have their children educated and become like the whites.

I took charge of this agency July 1, 1874; found quite a number of young men and women who could read and write. I have paid particular attention to the schools, and more has been accomplished in this line than I had reason to hope. There are about three hundred children of the Mississippi bands on the reservation who are entitled to the benefits of the school-fund; we have in attendance over one hundred pupils, and their progress is very commendable, both in their studies and in the industrial arts. They are very intelligent and easy to learn. I have two teachers who understand and can speak the Ojibway language; also the matron and assistant matron at the school boarding-house, and two teachers who do not speak the Ojibway language. All pupils who are advanced in English, or can speak or understand it, recite to these teachers, and their rapid progress in this branch is really surprising.

2. As I said in answer to No. 1, the Indians, upon their arrival here seven years ago, were as low and degraded as it is possible for human beings to be. There are Indians now living on this reservation like white men, in good, comfortable houses with comfortable furniture, and that you could not induce to go back to their old habits. They cultivate from one to twenty-five acres of land. I am speaking only of full-blood Indians. One chief, named "Tay-com-e-gi-shig," raised this season 310 bushels of No. 1 wheat. He plowed the ground, harrowed in the seed, and attended to it himself, the same as any farmer would do. The head chief, "Wab-bou-o-quod," plowed, sowed, and harrowed his own ground, and raised 70 bushels of excellent wheat.

We have some good carpenters among the Indians, who work with their tools every day, and thereby obtain a comfortable living.

3. A stranger passing through the reservation any time during the summer season, would scarcely believe that he was in an Indian country by the appearance of the houses and farms, or the dress of the people. He would see men working the same as in any new country, and women in the fields with their sun-bonnets on, as a general thing. I am speaking of the Indians who have settled here; there are many wandering Indians who do nothing except to beg of their friends and loll in the sun in their blankets, then grumble because the agent does not feed them more.

4. There are nearly two hundred families now on the reservation living in houses, and have more or less land under cultivation. Very few ever forsake their homes after they are once settled in them, and judging by the applications I have for houses every week, I am led to believe they would all soon be settled on farms if I or they had the means to build them houses and cultivate lands.

5. I have never heard or known of any trouble having arisen or existed between my Indians and the white settlers adjoining the reserve.

6. In reply, I would respectfully refer you to previous answers. Whenever an Indian becomes a farmer, he loses his tribal relation in a great measure; he is an independent man, thinks for himself, acts for himself, and becomes truly a man. And here I would most respectfully make an appeal to Congress, through your most honorable body, that they give the people on this reservation the right to take homesteads the same as white men on Government lands, with the provision that they can neither sell nor dispose of the same to white men, and that they make an especial act, making Indians on this reservation citizens in accordance with the laws of the State of Minnesota. Also to make any other law or regulation necessary, that this reservation may be organized into a county. There is quite a large class of men here who are well able to fill any office in a county of this size, and perform the business necessary to be done.

Letter from Thomas S. Free, Indian agent.

SAC AND FOX AGENCY IN IOWA,
Toledo, Iowa, November 15, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of circular-letter of November 6, and in reply would say, that during the past season I have built for this tribe a good and commodious school-house, and have employed teachers; the school commencing on October 1. The time, as yet, being short, a just degree of its success cannot be estimated. The teachers live in rooms finished above in the building, and devote their whole time impressing upon the young the necessity of attending school, and obtaining consent of parents; also, the male teacher attending to the agricultural interest and improvement of their land. The old men of the tribe meet the idea of education with mistrust, and argue against it as being contrary to their religious belief. The opposition from this source is the main thing to be overcome. The chief and head-men, jealous of their power under their tribal relations, are slow to receive any impression favorable to education, and withhold their consent, and have thus far refused to lend their influence to this movement.

The young and active men of the tribe nearly all are neutral, with a strong tendency to yield, the only bar being that they dislike to incur the chief's displeasure, and the fact of attending school not being compulsory, but an act of their own volition, it can only be met under of persuasion and kindness, which in due course of time will meet with some success.

But I would make education compulsory, based upon some wise provision in connection with their treaty, and speedily adjust them to citizenship if they are to remain on their present land; familiarize them with the English language; individualize them; and by power of example and instruction break their tribal relations.

There has been a marked improvement in industry among the men. Their land, being 419 acres, is held in common, and proves a detriment, to a certain degree, in the way of individual work, as common consent must be obtained to all improvement, and the result of toil is rendered uncertain by disagreement from this fact.

Several of the men have purchased small tracts of land several miles distant from the agency, and have commenced improvements; one or two residing on their land in small but comfortable houses. There is a strong desire among many of them to do the same thing, but they lack the means to purchase. Nearly all of the able-bodied men and boys of the tribe earned good wages during harvest, and made good and faithful hands.

They had in cultivation on their land here over one hundred acres, which was well tilled and productive of fair results. Several have teams and wagons. Quite a number work at any employment they can secure. They all know by power of example how to work, and understand the returns for labor, but the inclination to work is not naturally very strong.

The provisions of section 3, act of Congress approved March 3, 1875, compelling the Indians to labor under the restrictions contained therein, is a wise and beneficial measure, and has had a salutary effect. The sooner they are taught self-dependence and thrown upon their own support the better will be their present and future condition.

But few have adopted civilized dress. While some of the men dress entire in citizens' clothes they throw the blanket over all, and but little adaptation to civilized habits has been reached.

The relation of this tribe to the surrounding white neighbors is one of a very friendly nature. The freeholders in their immediate vicinity have extended all manner of accommodations, and have dealt fairly with them. The Indians have returned their confidence as well as could be expected.

Without this kindness on the part of the whites some of their families would at times suffer for the necessaries of life.

There has been but little progress attained toward the discontinuance of their tribal relations, and but little preparation made for the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship, which has been clearly laid before them at different times.

Their real estate has been taxed this year, and they urge strong grounds against it, as an invasion upon their rights. These matters have but recently been brought to their notice, and time may work a full acceptance of them.

I am satisfied from close observation that they believe their tribal relations are of short duration, and, surrounded as they are by a wealthy and prosperous people, they must conform to the laws and customs of their neighbors or find another home. Constant intercourse with the whites has worn away a great many prejudices, taught them many useful things, and in a great measure has paved the way for their future improvement. Possessing very strong local attachments for this the home of their fathers, they will yield many things before submitting to a removal, and accept in a measure the situation.

Letter of Barclay White, superintendent Indian affairs.

OMAHA, NEBR., Eleventh month 24, 1875.

In reply to your circular of 6th instant, I would respectfully state that the Northern Superintendency has charge of the Santee Sioux, Winnebago, Omaha, Pawnee, Otoe and Missouria, Iowa, and Sac and Fox of Missouri tribes of Indians, comprising nearly seven thousand souls, under the care of six resident agents, and all on reservations in the State of Nebraska, with the exception of the Pawnees now removing to Indian Territory.

1. *Education.*

The Santee Sioux have six schools in operation on their reservation, viz :

One agency industrial boarding-school; number of pupils, males 13, females 10; total.....	23
One industrial boarding-school, for girls, (mission of the American board;) number of pupils.....	14
One day-school, (mission of the American board;) pupils in addition to above-named girls.....	2
One industrial boarding-school, (Episcopal mission;) pupils, males 2, females 18; total.....	20
Two day-schools, (Episcopal mission,) Indian teachers; pupils, males 11, females 6; total.....	17
Total number of scholars.....	76
Estimated number of children in the tribe of suitable age who are not attending school.....	28

The Winnebagoes have four agency-schools, as follows :

One industrial boarding-school; number of pupils, males 28, females 27; total.....	55
Day-school No. 1; pupils, males 17, females 3; total.....	20
Day-school No. 2; pupils, males 29, females 6; total.....	35
Day-school No. 3, (at present closed on account of changing teachers,) about.....	20
Total number of scholars.....	130
Estimated number of children of proper age not attending school.....	113

The Omahas have recently had three agency day-schools; one is now closed on account of the inhabitants of a village moving to their allotments and becoming agriculturists, leaving no children in the vicinity of the school-house.

Day-school No. 1; number of pupils, males 16, females 26; total.....	42
Day-school No. 2; number of pupils, males 17, females 15; total.....	32
Children attending school.....	74
Estimated number of children of suitable age not in school.....	121

The Pawnees, now removing, have had three agency-schools, as follows :

One industrial boarding-school; number of pupils, males 48, females 17; total.....	65
Day-school No. 1; males 14, females 22; total.....	36
Day-school No. 2; pupils.....	20
Number of children in school.....	121
Estimated number of children of suitable school-age who do not attend school.....	390

School-houses will be constructed and schools established immediately upon the tribe becoming settled upon its new reserve.

The Otoes and Missourias have just completed one industrial boarding-school house to accommodate 60 scholars; the school is now being organized; the recent day-school contained 26 male and 11 female pupils; total 37.

Number of children of suitable ages not attending school, estimated..... 40

The Iowas have one industrial home, with day-school near by, which the children in the home attend; number of pupils, males 22, females 9; total 31.
 Number of children of suitable age not attending school, estimated..... 18

The Sacs and Foxes of Missouri have one day-school, taught by an Indian; pupils, males 7, females 4; total 11.
 Number of children of suitable age not attending school..... 5

Total schools now open, 14; temporarily closed, 5; number of children attending school, 480; number of children of suitable ages not attending school, 715.

Most of the Indians are willing, and many of them anxious, that their children may obtain school education. Probably one-half of the children not attending school would attend if their homes were conveniently near to school-houses. In addition to the above-named schools, there are in successful operation about 8 Sabbath-schools, where Indians of all ages receive religious instruction.

2. Industry.

Agricultural and mechanical industry is rapidly increasing among the male members in all our Indian tribes. The Santees, Winnebagoes, Omahas, and Iowas, during a fruitful year probably raise, by their own industry, an amount of agricultural products equal in amount to the needs of the tribe for subsistence. Indian apprentices are now learning all the mechanical trades of the agencies, and some of them are heads of their departments. They are apt scholars and good workmen, but lack self-reliance, and generally prefer a white man as foreman. This difficulty time will probably correct.

3. Adoption of the costumes and habits of civilized life.

The Santee-Sioux, Winnebagoes, and Iowas generally live in houses, eat with knives and forks from dishes on tables, sit on chairs, sleep in beds on bedsteads, dress in the costume of the whites, and desire to adopt the habits of civilized life. The remaining tribes are more backward, but are all progressing more or less rapidly toward civilized life.

4. Disposition of individuals or families to occupy and cultivate separate tracts of land as permanent homes.

The Santee-Sioux, Winnebagoes, and Omahas have portions of their reservations allotted in severalty to adults and heads of families. The Otoes and Missourians and Sacs and Foxes of Missouri are prepared to receive allotments of farms to heads of families. The Iowas generally have family-farms without certificates of allotment, and the Pawnees have signed resolutions in council asking that a portion of their lands in Indian Territory, when acquired, shall be allotted in severalty.

The certificates of allotment issued to some of the above-named Indians grant the holder a life-estate only, with a reversion of title to the United States after his death. Such uncertain tenure is not conducive to improvement or industry.

5. The cultivation of friendly relations with surrounding white neighbors.

All our tribes are friendly with the neighboring whites, and are guilty of few crimes toward them; many times less in number than they suffer at their hands.

6. Progress toward the discontinuance of tribal relations, and preparation for the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship.

No tribe of Indians in this superintendency is at present prepared to discontinue tribal relations or dispense with the proper guardianship of the Government.

The Winnebagoes elect their chiefs and policemen annually, by the majority voice of the adult males. The Santee-Sioux, Omahas, and Iowas, are preparing to make the same change in the selection of tribal authorities. A portion of the Santee-Sioux, about 75 families, containing 312 persons, have removed to Flandreau, Dak., where they have filed homestead papers, discarded tribal relations, and propose taking upon themselves the responsibility of American citizenship. A small portion of the Winnebago tribe in Minnesota have been admitted to citizenship, and some of the same tribe in Wisconsin have taken homesteads with a view to citizenship. The entire Winnebago tribe is rapidly advancing toward citizenship, but few of its members are yet prepared for it. The masses of the youth must be educated, hereditary tribal authority destroyed, the communist principle in the use of subsistence, and many traditional practices, such as giving to other members of the tribe the entire effects of the dead and of their near relatives, must be first abandoned, the family interest must become more predominant, and the individual Indian more provident, before the Indians of this superintendency will be in a proper condition to assume the responsibilities of citizenship and be enabled to protect their property from the designs of avaricious white men.

Letter of Jesse W. Griest, Indian agent.

OTOE AGENCY, NEBRASKA, Eleventh month 18, 1875.

RESPECTED FRIENDS: Your circular-letter of the 6th instant, requesting information concerning the progress made in the civilization of Indians, under the present

Indian policy, is received; and, responding thereto, I offer the following statement as comprehending the progress in the work since my connection with it in the spring of 1873.

1. Soon after taking charge of the agency a day-school was started, and has been kept in operation most of the time since, except during the months of July and August of each year. The attendance has generally been good, when the children were near enough to do so conveniently, and much of the time a commendable interest in their studies has been manifest. During the winter the number attending has been from thirty to fifty, and in summer less, owing to their being more scattered and otherwise engaged. The number enrolled during the past year has been sixty-eight. Of these about forty have learned to read and write English, and a few have made some advance in arithmetic and other common branches. During the past summer a commodious building has been constructed for the accommodation of an industrial school, where the children are to be fed, clothed, and instructed in school in domestic duties and industrial pursuits away from the tribe. The school was opened about the middle of last month, and up to the present time thirty children have been received into the institution, with indications that as many more will offer as can be accommodated. The funds of the tribe are limited, and it is feared that the efficiency of the school will be impaired for want of sufficient means to operate to its full capacity.

2. Under the system formerly practiced at this agency, of paying the Indians a cash annuity and allowing them to go on a hunt semi-annually, but little attention was given to agriculture by the Indians, except in small patches, and but little industry developed, or even called for as a necessity in their condition; and upon taking charge of the agency, I found the old agency farm that had been established by Government years ago, under treaty stipulations, deserted; the necessary appliances thereto entirely wanting, and the agency and employé buildings destroyed, or in a very dilapidated condition, and the shops without mechanical tools to work with. Much of this was doubtless owing to the want of means to operate with, or, perhaps, the misappliance of them, and the non-residence of former agents at the agency. Under these circumstances, we had to commence under no small disadvantages; and in order to develop industry among Indians successfully, it became apparent that they must feel a necessity and have a direct personal interest in their labor, which is a condition that is believed to be no less necessary among white people than among Indians.

To meet this necessity, the annuity fund was diverted from a cash payment to the payment of individuals for labor done in the interests of the tribe, the Indians receiving direct compensation in money for their labor, and the tribe receiving the proceeds thereof in lieu of the money. Under this system a desire for work was developed far beyond our means to employ, and our operations have been limited only by the means necessary to operate with. Nearly all the able-bodied male Indians have applied for work, and of whom all have been employed from time to time, as circumstances would permit, endeavoring to make their chances as nearly equal as was practicable, but none could be employed as much as they desired. The adoption of this system has wrought a material change in the agency and the condition of the tribe, the results of which, during the past two years, may be stated substantially as follows: Seven hundred acres have been inclosed by fence, all the available land formerly cultivated has been tilled, and two hundred and fifty acres additional have been broken and brought into a condition for cultivation. Virtually, all the work has been done by Indians, including fencing, the preparation of all material for same, and much general repair work not herein mentioned, also the putting up of five hundred tons of hay the past season for agency use, and the feed of 400 head of cattle, recently purchased and now on hand for the benefit of the tribe.

3. Many of the Indians are seen, wholly or in part, clothed in the costumes of civilized life, and it is believed that the dress worn by whites would be generally adopted by nearly all, did they have the means of procuring it, but as a pecuniary necessity the blanket and leggings are extensively worn by men; the material for women's wear being less expensive, they depend less on the blanket as an article of dress. In their domestic relations, it is noticeable that the men are becoming more provident, and share more largely in the labor and drudgeries of the family, which is regarded as an important advance in the right direction.

4. But little progress had been made toward establishing individual farms, until the present year, partly because they had no means to work with, and partly because it was considered, by a large faction of the tribe, a disgrace to so far deviate from their ancient Indian customs as to imitate the white man in establishing an independent home, and any one that ventured on an enterprise of this kind, contrary to their ideas of Indian propriety, was placed in very unfavorable repute. One who undertook it last year got into serious difficulty in consequence, but as the odium with which work was regarded has been largely overcome by our system of paid labor in tribal farming, and the practical demonstration it exhibits that the future subsistence of Indians must be obtained in this way, this averseness has been so far overcome, that about ten men went out last summer and broke prairie on individual claims, aggre-

gating about seventy-five acres, and now the almost universal desire, as expressed among the more substantial portion of the tribe, is that they may have teams to open farms in the spring. A petition by the Indians, in which this request is embodied, has been forwarded to the Department, and if teams can be supplied, it is believed that the greater portion will avail themselves of the opportunity, and commence the establishment of a home on separate tracts of land.

5. The Indians are on entirely friendly relations with the white settlers that surround the reservation, and the white citizens seem equally friendly toward the Indians, so far as I have been informed.

The progress of change from the old nomadic life of Indians, to that of staid citizenship, is from its nature slow, but under proper regulations and influences it is believed to be just as sure as it is slow, and that no more certain policy can be adopted than that aimed at and encouraged by the Government; if, therefore, failure comes at all, in the accomplishment of the grand object sought, it will come by the obstructions placed in the way of its full administration, or the unfaithfulness of those intrusted with the work.

Letter of M. B. Kent, Indian agent.

GREAT NEMAHA AGENCY,

Nohart, Nebr., Eleventhmonth 16, 1875.

RESPECTED FRIEND: In accordance with request per circular of the chairman of Board of Indian Commissioners of November 6, 1875, the following statement of the progress and condition of the Iowa and Sac and Fox of Missouri tribes of Indians at Great Nemaha agency, Nebraska, is respectfully submitted, viz:

1. "Education." Iowas: There is much to encourage in the efforts to educate the children of this tribe. A majority of the parents evince an anxiety to have their children taught various branches in the English language, and prove the good faith of their assertions by the regularity with which the children are sent to school. A few, who seem to be "strong in spirit but weak in flesh," fail to carry out their expressed desires to educate their children, and are not prompt in requiring attendance without a continual urging, and occasionally compulsion. There are forty-five Indian children of school-going ages, of whom forty-two have attended school, thirty-five of them with considerable regularity. Reading, writing, spelling, and arithmetic have been taught, and geography was recently introduced, in which much interest is manifested. The progress will equal that of any children under similar circumstances. The government is attended with much less difficulty than among white children, there seldom being a necessity for punishment among them. The Iowa Industrial Home, originally conducted as an orphans' home, has the present year been changed so as to approximate a manual-labor school, although the necessity for such an institution in this tribe does not exist to so great an extent as among those less advanced in industrial pursuits, as so many families have farms and gardens of their own, thus making employment not only for men but for children. While it is an apparent, but deplorable, fact that some who have received a literary and religious education have at once gone back into the most degraded manner of primitive life, the greater part of that class are much above those who have never embraced the advantages of schools or missions, and invariably make the greatest efforts for themselves.

Sacs and Foxes: A school for this tribe was commenced first of Ninthmonth, a building having been erected during the summer, from funds appropriated for the purpose, in fulfillment of treaty stipulations. There are 15 children of school-going ages, 11 of whom have attended the school, and are learning rapidly, taking into consideration the fact that they have never had any instruction in the English language. The school is taught by a member of the tribe, a half-breed, and an educated woman. There is now a prospect of procuring means for conducting this school more successfully, as the tribe has consented to the deviation of \$2,000 annually of their cash annuity for education and other beneficial purposes. This will put them upon a permanent basis for improvement, it is believed, and presents a twofold advantage: that of reducing their cash annuity, which has been so large as to prove an annual curse to them; and that of providing a means by which the children can be taught how to rise above being contented with wigwams, bark-houses, tents, and a general degraded life, which they formerly have led. They have now laid the foundation for rapid improvement, and with the continuance of the present policy it is believed they will, ere long, occupy a much higher position, as it seems that they have received but little attention in the past.

2. "Industry." The success that has attended the efforts made at farming the present year will fully prove the fact that these Indians, as a class, are an industrious, working people. Having met with repeated misfortunes, by the destruction of crops by grasshoppers and chinch-bugs, many planted the third and fourth time. First wheat, of which about two hundred acres were sown, not a bushel being harvested to

reward the effort. Discouraged, but not disheartened, they again went to work with energy, prepared and planted the same ground with corn, much of which was also destroyed a second time, but the abundant crop now ready for gathering is a sufficient evidence of the perseverance that is exhibited in many of their undertakings. Their industry has been amply rewarded by abundant crops of vegetables of some varieties; and buckwheat, a new crop for them, has yielded 250 bushels from 13 bushels seed. These crops were, with one or two exceptions, cultivated in a manner that will bear favorable comparison with those of surrounding white settlers. At least 1,100 tons hay have been cured by Indians alone, and from 12,000 to 15,000 bushels corn will be gathered. The Sacs and Foxes have had broken during the year 200 acres new ground, at tribal expense, one-fourth of which was broken by Indians, and 100 acres has been inclosed with fence during the year. The Iowas have broken about 100 acres. The amount of work accomplished is the best evidence that can be given of their "industry."

3. "*Adoption of the costumes and habits of civilized life.*" Nearly all the Iowas, and about one-half of the Sacs and Foxes, wear citizens' dress; but in some cases there seems to be an instinctive yearning for the primitive Indian costume; for, when slightly provoked by being thwarted in their own plans and desires, as a retaliation the blanket will occupy a more conspicuous position for a short time, though none ever exchange the pantaloons for leggings. A few have not the means to procure proper clothing; but all who are industrious, and are habitually at work, adopt the costumes and habits of civilized life, and all willingly acknowledge its superiority for a working dress.

The Iowas live in houses, and are generally supplied with tables, chairs, beds, and bedsteads, cook-stoves, and cooking-utensils generally, which they use in a creditable manner. The Sacs and Foxes are making progress in this direction, two houses having been built the present year, and others are in prospect; this being done from individual funds.

4. "*Disposition of individuals or families to occupy and cultivate separate tracts of land as permanent homes.*"

About three-fourths of the families of the Iowas are not only disposed, but anxious, to secure the right to improve separate tracts for their permanent homes, and obtain a Government guarantee that the same will not be taken from them without their consent, and that whatever labor they may expend upon it will be for their family or individual benefit. It would prove a great encouragement to them to thus recognize their desires in this matter, and not force them to be retarded in their efforts at improvement by a small faction of the tribe, who oppose this measure, and still want to be Indians. The Sacs and Foxes are almost unanimous in their desires for allotment in severalty of their lands, provided they are not made citizens.

5. "*The cultivation of friendly relations with surrounding white neighbors.*"

The Indians have always looked upon their white neighbors as friends, and desire to cultivate their friendship; but they are repeatedly deceived, and inveigled into committing improper and even criminal acts, that the whites may have opportunities to incense the public against them, in order to secure their removal. This work is conducted by low, unprincipled men, who are induced to act by others who have the will but lack the courage to do it themselves, but are daily increasing the public sentiment against the Indians, who are peaceable and quiet when not under the influence of intoxicating drinks furnished by these would-be friends.

6. No progress has been made toward the discontinuance of tribal relations, and none wish the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship; indeed, all are determinedly arrayed against any effort in that direction.

Letter of E. A. Howard, Indian agent.

SPOTTED TAIL, DAK., November 10, 1875.

SIR: Having considered the leading questions in your circular-letter of the 6th inst., I will endeavor to answer them briefly.

1. "*Education.*" It cannot be expected that any considerable advancement has been made in "book education," inasmuch as the school for their instruction was not opened till the 4th of September last. Nevertheless I am pleased to notice a marked aptitude on the part of many of the Indians to grasp even book-knowledge, and it is gratifying to me to be able to report the decided and even wonderful improvement in their moral condition within the limited time of my experience and labors among them. It may not be out of place in this connection to venture the assertion that any one having knowledge of their moral condition about two years ago, and not having witnessed the gradual and marked improvement since, or coming among them at the present

time, and looking from a moral stand-point, would hardly recognize in them the same class of people.

2. "*Industry.*" The people under my charge being among the wildest of the Sioux, have, of course, as yet made but little progress in the line of industry. Nevertheless it pleases me to state that many of them have, during the past season, cultivated small pieces of land, and are making efforts to erect for themselves log houses for their winter homes.

3. "*Adoption of the customs and habits of civilized life.*" In reply to this question I will mention, as indications of their advancement, that while until recently they have steadily avoided and manifested a decided aversion to the white man's customs and habits, many of them of late are anxious to discard the blankets and other Indian costumes, and attire themselves in white man's dress, which they conceive to be better adapted and more convenient to the pursuits of industry.

4. "*Disposition of individuals or families to occupy and cultivate separate tracts of land as permanent homes.*" Answered under the head of "*Industry*," question 2.

5. "*The cultivation of friendly relations with surrounding white neighbors.*" None to cultivate except "squaw-men," whose influences are not calculated to improve the moral condition of the Indian.

In answer to question six I am pleased to report myself under the firm conviction that with the proper indorsement and co-operation from the "powers that be," and which I have faith will be accorded me, I shall be able, by another season, to break up the tribal relations, so far as the issuing of rations and annuities is concerned, and recognize them by *individual families*.

Letter of J. G. Hamilton, Indian agent.

SISSETON AGENCY, DAK., November 20, 1875.

SIR: I am in receipt of your circular of November 6, 1875, asking for a statement of the progress made by the Indians of this reservation; and in reply I have the honor to report as follows:

In educational work the progress here has been satisfactory and in some cases surprising. Four district schools have been sustained during the year, and a manual-labor school, manned by a principal, matron, and two teachers.

The number of Indians on the reservation is 1,807. Out of this number some 800 read and write the Dakota or Sioux language; 100 read and write both English and Sioux; 115 children have attended school throughout the year, and 58 of this number have learned to read.

We have four church organizations on the reservation, officered by native pastors, elders, and deacons, and under the general management of the venerable Stephen R. Riggs, LL. D. Connected with these churches are 375 native members, 150 of whom are males and 225 females.

Industry.—When I assumed charge of the reservation I found some 600 acres of land in crop or ready for seed. The visitation of grasshoppers the preceding year and the fear of a second visit had discouraged the people greatly, and it required considerable labor and enthusiasm to wake them up to try again, but in the end we succeeded in putting in crops of wheat, oats, and corn, and a general variety of vegetables.

The Indians have harvested, under the general direction of the farmer, 4,000 bushels of wheat; 7,000 bushels of corn; 1,574 bushels of oats; 2,500 bushels of potatoes; 2,000 bushels of turnips; 50 bushels of onions; and 150 bushels of beans. They have also cut and stacked for their stock 4,500 tons of hay.

Two hundred and sixty families are located on claims of 160 acres of land. These farms are scattered over the reserve, located favorably as to wood and water. We have no Indian villages nor settlements of any size. The spirit of the policy here has been to throw the Indian on his own resources, and never do for him what he can be induced to do for himself. We seek to break down dependence upon chiefs and tribal relations, by awakening and developing a manly self-reliance.

With limited facilities the Indians have broken 725 acres of new land, thereby doubling the area to be put in crops next spring. They have built around this land some 4,000 rods of fencing, and in September and October much of the same land was cross-plowed and prepared for seed in the early spring.

Adoption of the costumes and habits of civilized life.—The Indians have been at peace among themselves, and their relations with surrounding white neighbors have been cordial and friendly. No depredations of any kind have been committed by the Indians during the year, and there has been no violation of law or treaty-obligations on the part of the Indians that has come to my knowledge. The officers stationed at Fort Wadsworth are experienced in dealing with Indians, and assure me that the advancement of these Indians the past year, their contentment, and disposition to

labor, to save and acquire property, indicate an entire abandonment of the old ways, and a determination to accept in good faith the policy of the Government.

To think for a moment of changing front and abandoning or even modifying the general features of the present policy cannot be less than folly.

My observation and experience here lead me to believe that the possibility of Indian civilization through continuance of the present policy is beyond question; but we need additional legislation before more forward steps can be taken, and the former efforts of your honorable board to secure the legislation should meet this winter with the success they deserve.

I am fully persuaded that many of the Indians on this reservation are prepared to appreciate the responsibilities of citizenship, and that nothing would stimulate or encourage them more than the knowledge that measures were being taken to clothe them with citizenship and its consequent duties and responsibilities.

Letter of T. A. Reily, Indian agent.

WHITE RIVER AGENCY, DAK.,
November 22, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your circular-letter, requesting information in regard to the results of the present Indian policy at this agency.

I would state that the agency has just been established, the agent having reached here on the 15th of September, a date too late in the season for the removal of the agency to its new point of location.

In reply to your inquiries I have to state—

1. That the Indians have made no progress in education, from the fact that they have been without schools. The Rev. Mr. Burt is just about opening one under the auspices of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and is receiving encouragement from very many of the Indians in the way of promises of attendance, which I feel will be largely fulfilled.

2. Some progress has been made in point of industry. The Indians, by their own labor, have erected between forty and fifty log houses. Many more, I have no doubt, will be erected during the coming spring, when the agency buildings are erected at the point selected by the Department.

3. With the exception of the buildings just mentioned, they have adopted none of the habits of civilized life.

4. The Indians, through their chiefs, express a willingness to go to farming in the spring, and ask the Government for the necessary agricultural implements, wagons, and oxen to enable them to carry out their desire, which the Department will furnish, I trust, upon the proper requisition.

5. The older Indians are friendly in their relations with all the whites with whom they come in contact, and express the desire to be so with all white men. The young men, however, are restless and would readily go on the war-path if a pretext should offer, and the older Indians were not able to restrain them.

6. No progress has thus far been made toward the discontinuance of tribal relations, and no preparation for the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship. I am of the opinion, however, that when they are all living in separate houses and rations can be furnished to each family separately, the first and greatest step will have been taken toward individualizing them.

Letter of H. W. Bingham, Indian agent.

CHEYENNE RIVER AGENCY, DAK.,
November 24, 1875.

SIR: In response to circular of 6th instant, from your honorable board, I have the honor to submit the following:

1. *Education.*—From information obtained from the gentlemen in charge of the schools at this agency, I am inclined to believe that the progress made in education has been so satisfactory that every effort should be made to encourage and assist the good work. When it is considered that the scholars in attendance at these schools are Indians, who have never been accustomed to the least restraint, until enrolled as members of school, it will be admitted by the most skeptical that the results attained in this direction are such as to satisfy the most sanguine.

2. *Industry.*—It is needless for me to say that industrial pursuits have no fascination for the Indians as a body; still, the force of example and encouragement will generally achieve what more rigorous measures would certainly fail in. When first called upon to fill my present position, I considered the prospects to induce the Indians to work, or devote their attention to industry in the least manner as far from bright, but now, looking over the past, I am happy to say that the number who evince a disposition to

help themselves and the Government is far greater than I dared hope for a year or two ago. Of course the large body of the Indians still adhere to their aimless life of idleness and uselessness, but occasionally a seceder joins the ranks of the industrious, and seldom returns, unless strong inducements are held out by those who are hostile to industry.

3. *Adoption of the customs and habits of civilized life.* Progress in this direction has been slow but sure. The great objection that existed a few years ago to wear the clothing of the white man is gradually dying out among the well-disposed and more friendly Indians. Like industrial pursuits, this is confined to the minority, but I entertain strong hopes for the future. Substituting strong, durable log-houses for the lodge or tepee, and furnishing stoves and other furniture for such as inhabit these houses, has proved a great inducement for the change. Occasionally in the summer months an Indian will temporarily forsake his house, but is sure to return, thus proving that he appreciates the comforts provided for him. On the whole, I am perfectly satisfied with the advancement made by these Indians.

4. *Disposition of individuals or families to occupy and cultivate separate tracts of land as permanent homes.* Like the two foregoing branches, the converts to this policy are the minority, but similar hopes are entertained for success in the future. At this agency we are not favored with the advantages likely to encourage the desired change. The quantity of arable land in this vicinity is rather limited, and the timber is nearly exhausted, so that the inducements for Indians settling in permanent homes are not flattering, and I am forced to acknowledge that they cannot be blamed in the matter. Notwithstanding the existing difficulties, I am happy to say that a number of families cultivate separate tracts of land adjacent to their houses, and if this agency was more favorably located, I am safe in asserting that a rapid progress could be reported.

5. *The cultivation of friendly relations with surrounding white neighbors.* I am happy to state that within the last two years there has not been a hostile exhibition at or in the vicinity of this agency by the Indians who reside here. Those who live at what is known as the hostile camp, and visit us from time to time, have a false idea of independence, to which they give expression during their visits, but which receives a flat contradiction before their departure, by an application and acceptance of the Government supplies, which in their pretensions to independence they had previously attempted to ignore. Friendship toward the whites is boasted of in councils, by the Indians belonging to the agency, and has been so often proved, that I feel safe in saying that the progress in that direction is all that can be wished.

6. *Generally, what, if any, progress has been made toward the discontinuance of tribal relations, and preparation for the privileges and responsibility of citizenship?* I do not feel safe in saying that any progress has been made in this direction; these Indians are not sufficiently civilized to thoroughly understand the subject, nor to appreciate the advantages to be derived from such a change. Success or failure will depend on future efforts, and although the present outlook is not promising, still I do not intend to give the matter up in despair.

Letter of Henry F. Livingston, Indian agent.

CROW CREEK AGENCY, DAK.,

November 29, 1875.

SIR: In reply to your circular of the 6th instant, I have the honor to submit the following facts regarding the Indians under my charge.

Three schools, one boarding and two day schools, have been taught at this agency during the past year, with an average attendance of twenty-four. The children while at school have readily conformed to all rules and regulations, and have made quite as good advancement as white children under like circumstances. The schools are gradually meeting with favor among the Indians at this agency. Three years ago but one Indian of this tribe was in favor of schools; now, the majority favor them.

All heads of families have been engaged in farming to some extent during the past season, and have met with fair success. Nearly all of the adult males are capable of plowing, building fences, making hay, teaming, &c. Thirty families have been engaged in raising stock on a limited scale, for the past two years, and with few exceptions have met with fair success.

The Indians at this agency are gradually adopting the costumes and habits of civilized life, as regards the manner of living, preparing food, dress, &c.

One hundred and thirty families are living in log-houses erected by themselves, and cultivating separate tracts of land as permanent homes.

The Indians are on friendly relations with surrounding white neighbors.

The tribal relation still exists, although the Indians each year are becoming more and more individualized, taking permanent homes, cultivating individual fields, and coming in possession of personal property; this in time will break down all tribal re-

Letter of John P. Williamson, Indian agent.

FLANDREAU SPECIAL AGENCY,
Greenwood, Dak., December 6, 1875.

SIR: Owing to absence from home, I take this late opportunity of answering your circular-letter of November 6, 1875.

The Flandreau Indians under my charge were probably the first to avail themselves of the inducements to civilization, under the present Indian policy, as specially manifested in the great Sioux treaty of 1865.

Early in the spring of 1869, they threw up their tribal relations at the Santee agency, and took Indian homesteads, selecting Flandreau as the most suitable place for their enterprise. Owing to some misunderstanding, they failed to receive, during the first four years, the aid they expected from Government. But for nearly three years now, the Government has been supplying each farmer, who has filed his claim, with oxen, wagons, plows, and a few smaller tools. Very little food or clothing has been given them—none since the first of last July. Though many things are yet unattained, their improvement under this plan is very marked.

They now number 350, living on 75 claims.

1. "Education." They have had a day-school, supported by Government, for over two years, kept up all the year. It does well as most district schools, and the English language is gaining. Their further need is a boarding-school for the children who live far away.

2. "Industry." These Indians all do some farming, and have raised in the aggregate, the past year, about 3,500 bushels corn, 2,500 potatoes, 1,500 wheat, besides other things, and the men do most of the farm-work. The great inducement to work is the necessity for a living, and emulation of the whites around them.

3. Their "costumes" are all those of civilized life, and most of their "habits."

4. These Indians all cultivate "separate tracts of land;" their great object in taking homesteads was to secure permanent homes.

5. At first there was considerable fear, and much opposition manifested by their white neighbors, but by the uniform good conduct of the Indians this has been almost entirely overcome.

6. All "tribal relations" were disbanded when they left Santee agency, and we believe they are as well prepared for citizenship as the majority of the negroes in the South.

I will add that the rapid improvement of these Indians I believe to be largely owing to religious training. Shortly before they left the Santee agency they had abandoned heathenism and adopted Christianity, which they have steadily maintained. There are very few who are not members of the church, which they attend very regularly. They are also considerably educated, there being very few who cannot read and write their own language.

Letter of C. W. Darling, Indian agent.

ARICKAREE, GROS VENTRE, AND MANDAN AGENCY,
Fort Berthold, Dak., December 9, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of 6th ultimo, requesting a brief and concise statement of the results of the present Indian policy.

In reply I would state:

1. There was no school at this agency until the spring of 1874, and owing to the destruction of the agency buildings by fire on October 12, 1874, it was compelled to be discontinued; no teacher has been at the agency since, until last month, and I am now arranging for the re-opening of the school as soon as practicable. During the continuance of the school there was a good attendance of Indian children, who showed great aptitude, and a number learned to read and a few to write in English.

2. There is a gradual but very perceptible advance being made by the Fort Berthold Indians in habits of industry. Last winter they cut about 1,000 cords of wood for steamboats, furnished all the coal, (about 100 tons,) and put up the ice required at the agency, doing all the work themselves. During last summer and fall they supplied about 140 tons of hay, and at present are engaged in mining and hauling about 100 tons of coal required at the agency. Formerly, all these articles were furnished by white men on contracts at high figures; they are now supplied by the Indians at greatly-reduced prices, and payment is chiefly made with their own supplies furnished by the Government. There is also an earnest and increasing desire on the part of quite a large number of Indians for steady and constant employment at the agency, and many of them are good teamsters and laborers. I purpose selecting a few Indian apprentices for instruction in farming, blacksmithing, and carpentering, &c.

3. This winter a very large number of these Indians wear as a matter of choice the costume of civilized life, and appreciate highly its superiority over the robe or blanket and breech-clout. Some of the old chiefs who never before had worn the white man's clothing are now dressed entirely like white men.

4. Owing to the continual and harassing trouble these Indians have had until recently with their hereditary enemies, the Sioux, they were unable to cultivate and occupy separate tracts of land as permanent homes. A treaty of peace was effected last summer with the Lower Sioux; should it be maintained I have no doubt the Indians of this agency would gladly prefer separate tracts of land as permanent homes, but to accomplish this it will be necessary to remove the agency from its present location to a point where timber can be obtained for building houses, fences, corrals, and for fuel. The supply of timber for these purposes is entirely exhausted at the present location of the agency.

5. No trouble for many years has been experienced in the relations of the Fort Berthold Indians to their white neighbors. The Arickarees say "they are no longer Indians; they are white men, and desire to live as such."

6. The practice adopted at this agency for the last two years of issuing rations and annuities to *heads of families*, instead of to *chiefs*, has done much to break up tribal relations, and there is a growing tendency on the part of the more intelligent Indians to independence of thought and action, and freedom from control of the chiefs.

On the whole, I am thoroughly satisfied with the humanity and wisdom of the present Indian policy, which has done much to civilize and elevate the Indian, and at this agency has produced very gratifying results.

Letter of Paul Beckwith, Indian agent.

DEVIL'S LAKE AGENCY,

December 12, 1875.

SIR: In answer to your communication dated November 6, 1875, I would respectfully say:

1. *Education*.—I find a universal desire to learn. The school at this agency, under the able management of the Gray Nuns of Montreal, is filled to overflowing, and had they room for forty more it would soon be filled.

2. *Industry*.—Among the majority industry, that is, tilling the soil, is the rule. For arts or manufacture they have no inclination.

3. *Adoption of the costumes and habits of civilization*.—Our Indians, in most cases, even though wearing the white man's clothes for a year, will, at least impulse, throw them aside and resume the leggings and blanket.

6. *Generally, progress toward discontinuance of tribal relations, &c.*—The Indians of this reservation have given up all tribal relations, and are gradually preparing for the responsibilities of the white man. Should it be deemed fit to issue a warrant or deed to every landholder Indian to his piece of ground, it would do more than anything else in teaching the privileges of the white man. I would respectfully suggest the same to be brought before the honorable board.

Letter of W. W. Alderson, Indian agent.

FORT PECK AGENCY, MONTANA,

December 21, 1875.

SIR: In response to your circular letter dated November 6, 1875, which is just received, I have the honor to say—

1. That, previous to July last, comparatively little had been done or attempted toward the establishing of schools or the education of the wild Indians of this remote agency. Early last spring I succeeded in inducing about 200 families, principally Assinaboines, to separate themselves from the main camp of Sioux and locate at Wolf Creek, about 50 miles below Fort Peck, with a view to engaging in farming and stock-raising. And on the 1st of July last I organized a day-school, which has been maintained with little intermission, and with most encouraging results, up to this date. We have upward of 60 children on the rolls, with an average daily attendance of over half that number. Their ages range from 5 to 13 years. A majority of the children appear to be interested in their studies, have made fair progress, and are as bright, apt, and intelligent as white children would be under similar circumstances.

With few exceptions, their parents have manifested considerable interest in the school; they have visited it frequently, and have expressed themselves well pleased with what they saw and heard. If the accommodations were sufficient, and suitable

clothing provided by the Government, I am confident that all the children of proper ages in the settlement could be induced to attend school regularly. All the teaching is in English, and I am pleased to say that this meets the unqualified approval of the head-men of the tribe.

The past summer has witnessed our first successful efforts to induce any considerable number of male Indians to labor. In commencing farming operations at Wolf Creek last spring, we were unable to induce any except the Indian women to assist in planting and cultivating; but during the summer, through the patient and persevering efforts of the head-farmer, Mr. Fitch, a gradual and favorable change was produced in this regard. At first a few aged men "broke the ice" and led the way with a hearty good-will; others soon followed, hoeing, weeding, and building fences until, before the close of the season, a majority of the able-bodied male Indians of the settlement were ready and willing to perform almost any task which was assigned them.

Two of the principal chiefs, Red Stone and Long Fox, have been of great assistance to us. They have measurably overcome their innate aversion to labor, laboring with their own hands almost constantly during the hay-harvest as well as assisting in and overseeing the gathering and storing the crops of vegetables raised on the agency farm.

3. Scarcely any perceptible change has taken place looking to the adoption of the customs and habits of civilized life. Yet some few men in the tribe have adopted citizens' dress. Among these are two of the most influential men. Others are beginning to inquire for suits of clothing, saying they want to dress like white men, and I may safely say that, from present indications, the Assinaboines will soon be "ripe" for the change.

During the month of June last I organized an Indian police among the Sioux of this agency, which was intended to act as a governmental force over the entire camp. They have performed their work efficiently and with fidelity, and they have been very anxious to obtain soldiers' or citizens' suits, at least coats and vests, for the entire band. These I am now endeavoring to obtain, and I have no doubt but they will make good use of them.

4. I think I am safe in saying that a majority of the Assinaboines, now located at Wolf Creek, are earnestly desirous of occupying and cultivating separate tracts of land as permanent homes. Several are now engaged in building substantial log-houses and making rails for fencing, under the assurance from me that the Government will break up separate tracts of land for them next spring.

5. There being but one small white settlement contiguous to this reservation, there has been comparatively little contact or intercourse between these Indians and the whites.

The history of the Assinaboines has generally been that of peace and friendship toward the whites, and the past year has witnessed no deviation from their usual good behavior. The Sioux, on the other hand, are traditionally hostile and treacherous, and although I can see a perceptible change for the better in the general deportment of the Sioux of this agency for the past two years, yet I cannot but feel that they are not altogether reliable and will yet bear considerable watching.

6. Except so far as indicated above, no direct or perceptible progress has been made by the Indians of this agency toward the discontinuance of tribal relations and preparation for the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship.

It will be seen that I have confined my remarks principally to those Assinaboine Indians of this agency who are now located at Wolf Creek. I have carefully confined myself to actual and reliable data, and am confident that I have not overdrawn the picture. They are much better disposed, more easily influenced, and more hopefully progressive than their Sioux neighbors. Regarding this settlement as a most important initial experiment and this small band of Indians as the nucleus of a future large and prosperous community, we have given it our most earnest efforts and unremitting attention. The results have exceeded our most sanguine expectations.

I hope that the Government and church authorities will continue to deal generously and benevolently with these deserving Indians, to the end that they may receive suitable encouragement and assistance in the new mode of life they have undertaken, and that they may ultimately become a civilized and christianized people.

Letter of John S. Wood, Indian agent.

BLACKFEET AGENCY, MONT., December 6, 1875.

SIR: In compliance with circular-letter dated Washington, D. C., November 6 last, of which I am just in receipt, I have the honor to furnish the desired information so far as I am enabled to do so.

When it is borne in mind that the school here has been but recently established, the results obtained cannot be expected to compare with those from agencies where education has been made a specialty for years past. The proximity of this agency to the hunting-grounds where the buffalo range is a serious obstacle to procuring regular attendance of pupils, and the want of a boarding-school more than all retards their progress. However, notwithstanding these adverse circumstances, the school is gaining rapidly, and there are over twenty children already who can read in the first, second, and third readers, eight of whom write and work questions in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Besides this, a number of girls have been taught cutting and sewing, and all the children sing a number of hymns with great taste and correctness.

This agency being about to be moved to Badger Creek, fifty miles north of the present place, it is my intention on going there to establish a boarding-school for about thirty children, from which I expect important results in the course of a year.

I regret to state that none of these people have yet commenced agriculture, or civilized pursuits, and that their only avocation is hunting and trading furs, peltries, &c. This is owing to their situation near the buffalo-range, and perhaps a want of encouragement to engage in farming, as well as an almost annual visitation of grasshoppers. Suitable land for agricultural purposes is scarce within the bounds of their reservation; and this, together with the late change of boundary-lines, renders them diffident to taking up land for this purpose, fearing that further alterations may compel them to abandon the same after a time. Another great hindrance has been the detestable whisky-traffic, which flourished so prosperously a short time since, engendering poverty, ruin, and death; its inevitable consequences. I am much pleased to state that this fearful evil has already been completely suppressed, and that for several months past not a single case of drunkenness has been reported or come under my observation.

I am fully convinced that these people could be easily induced to commence pastoral pursuits, as this country is specially adapted to this purpose; and, if proper encouragement were given them to engage in such, they could, in a short time, be led to forego the precarious living obtained by means of hunting.

A number of the most intelligent of these tribes wear citizens' dress, and many more would do likewise if they had the means. I think there are at least ninety persons who dress wholly or in part in civilized garb; but for reasons stated above, none of them conform in other respects to the requirements of civilized life.

The disposition of families or individuals to occupy or cultivate separate tracts of land as permanent homes are few, because of the uncertainty of such a means of livelihood under present circumstances, but, under favorable conditions, I am of opinion that many would be found to do so.

Since January last these Indians have conducted themselves, without exception, in a most friendly and harmonious manner toward their white and Indian neighbors; not a single case of misconduct of any kind has been reported or come under my notice. Previous to the above time, they were very much disorganized, had no head-chiefs, nor any laws or government to control them. They were separated in small unfriendly bands, each suspicious of the other, and eager for advantage, and ready for theft or strife, as occasion offered, either upon each other or their white neighbors.

Shortly after taking charge, I assembled the heads of bands in council, and, after considerable delay and discussion, induced them to elect head-chiefs and pass a code of laws, a copy of which has been forwarded; since which time—April last—there has been no trouble of any kind, either between the different bands or their white or Indian neighbors.

There has been no desire expressed on the part of any of these people to sever their tribal relations and assume the duties and responsibilities of citizenship, nor any move in this direction. So long as they continue hunting and a nomadic course of life, the tribal relation is a necessity, as they must go to the hunting-ground in force to insure protection from other bands who meet them there in like numbers for the same purpose. The buffalo-hunt must be discontinued before they will take any steps in this direction, and also encouragement given to commence agricultural or pastoral pursuits, and permanent houses established for them. To begin farming, a grist-mill and the fencing and breaking of a large amount of land would be necessary. The amount necessary for these objects would, in my opinion, be much better invested in the purchase of suitable stock to enable them to begin pastoral life, which is far more congenial to the Indian than farm labor.

A few of the best of the head-men evince a preference for houses instead of wigwams, and it is contemplated to build all such permanent homes in the vicinity of the new agency, to form a nucleus for future settlement.

FORT HALL AGENCY,
Idaho, November 22, 1875.

HON. BOARD INDIAN COMMISSIONERS,
Washington, D. C.:

GENTLEMEN: In compliance with instructions, I have the honor to submit the following statement:

A school was organized about a year ago and was very well attended; for want of funds and suitable buildings for boarding the children, it was discontinued at the end of the fiscal year. It will be reopened on the 1st December and kept going if funds are furnished for that purpose.

A large number of able-bodied men have been employed as laborers on the agency-farm. As many more could have been thus employed had their services been required. Several families have cultivated farms of their own, making good crops of potatoes and wheat; have made arrangements with twenty-five families to settle upon and cultivate farms of their own another year. As they learn to work they adopt the customs and habits of civilized life. If these Indians are properly encouraged and furnished with seeds and farming implements, large numbers of them will soon become self-supporting. There is a gradual disappearance of tribal relations among them. They are fast becoming civilized and seeking after the way of truth.

Letter of Cyrus Beede.

CENTRAL SUPERINTENDENCY,
Lawrence, Kans., 11, 12, 187.

Responding to circular letter from your board of 6th instant, asking for concise statement of the progress made by the Indians of this superintendency in civilization under the present Indian policy, I submit the following tabular statement, which exhibits the comparative condition of the Indians of the Central Superintendency for the years 1868 and 1875. It embraces the condensed statistics of the Kickapoos, Pottawatomies, Kaws, Osages, Quapaws, Peorias, Ottawas, Wyandotts, Senecas, Sacs and Foxes, Absentee Shawnees, Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Wichitas, Kiowas, and Comanches, aggregating 16,000 Indians, the number being very nearly the same in 1875 as in 1868:

	1868.	1875.
Number of schools.....	4	15
Number of pupils.....	105	836
Number of Sabbath-schools.....	.....	13
Amount contributed by Friends.....	.....	\$10,000
Acres cultivated by Indians.....	3,220	14,499
Corn raised by Indians, (bushels).....	31,700	320,500
Wheat raised by Indians, (bushels).....	633	28,032
Oats raised by Indians, (bushels).....	(*)	5,930
Potatoes raised by Indians, (bushels).....	1,770	17,102
Other vegetables raised by Indians, (bushels).....	7,000	12,000
Hay raised by Indians, (in tons).....	750	4,996
Horses, ponies, and mules owned by Indians.....	17,924	25,921
Cattle owned by Indians.....	640	6,580
Hogs owned by Indians.....	1,074	12,268
Houses occupied and owned by Indians.....	(†)	1,042

* None reported.

† Not reported.

Some estimate of the progress of education may be made from the fact that the most of the fifteen schools noted above have been in steady operation during the interval of seven years, with a constantly-increasing average of pupils and a decided growth in the interest taken by the adult Indians in encouraging schools. The table speaks for itself in regard to progress in industrial pursuits, and this progress implies an increasing adoption of the costumes and habits of civilized life, the cultivation of peaceable habits, the occupation and cultivation of separate tracts of land, and a growing preparation for the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship. Furthermore, the careful instruction of both children and adults in the fundamental principles of the Christian religion, so far as practicable, and the direct efforts of the agents and others to bring them to a practical application of these principles in daily life, have not been without present success and are full of hope for the future.

Letter of M. H. Newlin, Indian agent.

AGENCY INDIANS IN KANSAS,
Eleventhmonth 19, 1875.

Thy circular-letter dated Tenthmonth 6, 1875, has been received.

The Indians in this agency under my charge consist of the Prairie band Pottawatomies, numbering about 450 persons, and the Kickapoos, numbering about 280 persons.

The former tribe is located in Jackson County, Kansas, and the latter in Brown County, Kansas.

When I took charge of the Prairie band, nearly three years since, they had no school, had never sent their children to school, and were then opposed to doing so. After great labor, we succeeded in establishing a school. It gradually gained in numbers and influence, and during the fiscal year ending Sixthmonth 30, 1875, had an average attendance of about thirty scholars. The Kickapoos have had the advantage of schools for many years. They send a large proportion of their children.

The Indians in both tribes are greatly interested in the progress of their children in their studies, and note very closely their improved appearance and deportment. The children are affectionate and intelligent, and quickly learn to perform such light duties as are assigned to them, suitable to their sex and strength. In both tribes the schools exert a powerful influence in elevating the Indians and spreading a moral influence among them.

The people of both tribes are to a large degree farmers, and notwithstanding the many difficulties with which they had to contend during the planting season, they persevered, and many of them have raised good crops of corn, potatoes, and pumpkins; others, who suffered more severely from grasshoppers, did not do so well, but in the aggregate there has been nearly enough raised to furnish about one-half of their subsistence; they have put up an ample supply of hay to feed their stock during the winter. A majority of the Indians of these tribes live in substantial houses, have excellent fences, and take pride in having their places present a tidy appearance. A very small percentage, if any, of their crops are allowed to waste.

With few exceptions the Kickapoos dress like white people; a majority of the Prairie band dress in the same way, and those who do not are gradually relinquishing their old habits in this respect; among the latter class, however, are numbered some of the best farmers and most progressive men in the tribes.

The Indian families in this agency occupy separate houses and tracts of land, and are intent upon prosecuting their individual or family interests.

They are on friendly terms with the white people, living contiguous to their reserves, and trade with and visit them as white people do among themselves. Many white people pronounce them desirable neighbors and receive them in their houses with pleasure.

I should say that these Indians are becoming interested in their individual advancement, and necessarily somewhat less interested in their tribal relations, though their tribal organizations are kept up as formerly.

They are certainly more capable of transacting business, and are nearer being self-sustaining, than when I came among them.

They are not now prepared for the responsibilities of citizenship; when they will be I am not prepared to say, though I believe a continuation of the present policy toward the Indians in this agency will in a few years effect a marked improvement in them.

Letter of H. W. Jones, Indian agent.

QUAPAW AGENCY, Eleventhmonth 13, 1875.

I am in receipt of circular letter under date of 6th instant, asking information as to the comparative results of the present Indian policy, &c.

1. *Education.*—In September, 1871, when I took charge of this agency, there were two small schools in operation, with an attendance of 39 pupils, with a general feeling averse to education, but by continuous labor in the cause we have now in successful working order three mission and one day school, with another school-house almost ready for occupancy for the benefit of the Miami tribe, in which we expect to open school about the 1st proximo. We had an attendance the past year of 294 scholars, with a good degree of interest manifested by all the tribes in this agency except the Senecas, the greater portion of whom seem unwilling to avail themselves of the benefits of the liberal offer made by the Government for their advancement in civilization and education. Yet, with all the difficulties and discouragements, we believe much good has been and is being accomplished in this direction.

2. *Industry.*—I know of no better way to illustrate the progress made in industrial

pursuits than by comparing the present with the year 1871, when I took charge of the agency. In 1871 there was in cultivation 3,323 acres, including 291 acres cultivated by the Delawares, who were residing at that time in the limit of this agency, but since removed to the Cherokee country, where they properly belonged, and abandoned their improvements, which grew up wild again, leaving 3,032 acres in actual cultivation. By the report the present year, we have 5,213 acres in cultivation, with 710 acres broke this year, making 5,923 acres, with 971 acres more under fence, used for pasture, making a total under fence of 6,894 acres, with a commendable energy to add to their improvements each year, by building better and more comfortable dwelling-houses, planting out fruit-trees, and otherwise adorning their homes.

3. Our Indians generally have adopted the costumes of civilized life and are partaking more of the habits by abandoning most of their heathenish customs, such as the dance and feasts of former times, in which they made night hideous with their wild songs and carousals.

4. They are now disposed to occupy and cultivate separate and distinct tracts of land as permanent homes, and regard each other's rights to their homes and improvements as sacred. And here let me suggest the idea that it might be a greater inducement to make more permanent and better improvements were their lands allotted so that each one would know that the improvements he made were to be exclusively for the benefit of himself and family, and not liable to revert back to the tribe at his death.

5. They generally cultivate and are on friendly relations with surrounding white neighbors, especially all good moral citizens.

6. The tribal relations are weakening very much, as is shown by a disposition on the part of the masses to act for themselves and not depend upon their chiefs.

Letter of J. M. Haworth, Indian agent.

OFFICE KIOWA AND COMANCHE AGENCY,
Indian Territory, Eleventhmonth 18, 1875.

Referring to circular letter from the Hon. Clinton B. Fisk, dated Washington, D. C., November 6, 1875, as to progress of Indians under present policy, I have to say, I am now in the third quarter of my third year's sojourn with these people, and can say the change and progress since I came among them, in very many respects, is really wonderful. Last winter was the first time the Kiowas, Comanches, and Apaches sent their children to school; the three tribes were nearly equally represented in our boarding-school of near sixty scholars. White children could not make any more rapid progress than our wild ones did; in two months many of them were reading; and in four months many of them were reading in the Second Reader, had learned the multiplication-table by heart, could add in 2s, 3s, and 4s up to 200; could name on the outline-maps all the oceans, seas, lakes, and rivers of the United States; also the States and Territories, naming readily either one when pointed out; could also give the English name of the various animals of the mammal charts, and repeat in concert so plainly that one hearing, without seeing, would think them American children; the Lord's prayer, and such other little prayers as "Now I lay me down to sleep," &c.; also learned to sing the chorus of several Sabbath-school hymns. At the commencement of school, it is safe to say, not one of them knew three English words.

The schools taught at this agency previous to the last session were composed of Caddo and Delaware children.

The interest manifested and anxiety of these people for school-privileges are very encouraging, though with several hundred suitable for school, we have only accommodations for sixty, which fills our house.

Industry.—When I came here three years ago the coming spring, I believe there was but one field, about fifteen acres, in possession of those classed as blanket-Indians. Asa Toyet and Straight Feather, Penetethca, Comanche chiefs, had it in possession and desired to farm it, though I believe they had not previously done so. I had it enlarged to about thirty-five acres, and Ka-ha-va-wa, another Penetethca chief, joined the others in its cultivation. I also had ground plowed and fenced for the Yamparethca Comanche chiefs, and some for the Apaches. The Penetethcas did very well, also the Apaches; the others seemed quite willing to let the corn cultivate itself. The year following I had the Apache fields enlarged, also some additional ground plowed for the Comanches. The interest seemed much increased over the previous year; many were anxious for small fields, but the unfortunate troubles arising caused a suspension of farming work, and the loss of crops to those who had already commenced; had matters remained peaceable I feel quite sure a large number more would have become interested in raising corn.

Early last spring I called a general council of the tribes on the farming subject.

They were ready for work and wanted fields made. I agreed to arrange the matter for them, provided the men would do the work, and the women be excused from it, to which they consented. The Kiowas put in about one hundred and seventy-five acres, the Comanches about the same, the Apaches about forty acres. I gave them plows and harness; they furnished their own mules and did the plowing, and did it very well; some cases three young men with one team, one to each mule and one to hold the plow.

I furnished a man for each tribe to show them how to do the work. They cultivated the corn well. The season being favorable gave them good crops. I arranged with the traders to buy some of their corn, paying them one dollar per bushel; their sales amounted to near five thousand bushels; to-day many of them have a few "green-backs," the results of their own industry, and are very anxious to have corn to sell next year. Besides the amount sold they dried large amounts for winter use.

They are very anxious for houses and fields, and seem ready in many cases for that much of an advance on the white man's road. The fields cultivated by the Kiowas and Yamparethca, Cochetethca and Noconee Comanches are in common, though allotted to them in parcels the past year; they are quite anxious for separate fields. Mauxie and his people, a small band of Mootzer Comanches, cultivated thirty acres in a separate place, having a very fine crop of near fifty bushels to the acre; besides the corn, they had a fine "patch" of melons and other vegetables, of which they brought in and sold at post and agency over eighty dollars' worth; with proper help they will not necessarily be a charge upon the Government many years.

The feelings of my people, I think, are decidedly friendly as well as appreciative of the different classes of people. They say there is a difference in white people; one part they class as those who love the Great Spirit, keep a medicine-day, (Sabbath,) don't drink whisky, and in many other ways differ from the other class. One of the prominent Kiowa chiefs said some time ago that his agent wanted him to get ahead of the white man on his own road, telling him he must not drink whisky, swear, or many other things he saw white people do, which to him would seem accomplishments, and put him on the white man's way. We have endeavored to impress upon their minds the respect due the Sabbath day, and am glad to say our efforts have shown fruit in that direction. They do not understand how it is that Hardee's tactics and the revised regulations don't teach the same lesson. I think their general improvement in manners very marked; immodesty in actions or speech about the agency is now seldom witnessed; it is a rare thing to have to call the attention of any one the second time to the same matter or impropriety.

They learn to work very soon, some of them seeming to be natural mechanics; during the time the Caddo children were attending our school, three of them were in the carpenter-shop and two in the blacksmith-shop; they learned very fast. One of the carpenter-boys showed ability far above that of the average white apprentice.

The idea of getting money by earning it is becoming quite important to them, and in connection with this thought, I will say, I believe a police-force of Indians employed from the three tribes, say forty or fifty, with two good white men to head them, would be the most effective force to be employed in keeping this reservation clear of horse-thieves and whisky-peddlers.

They should be paid a fair compensation in money for their services, and kept on duty by relief, all the time. I believe they would arrest their own people as well as others, for violation of proper rules. A short time ago, one of the traders complained to me that his store had been broken into by a young Comanche, who had stolen some checks and goods. I called the chiefs together and laid the matter before them; told them the reputation of their entire tribe would suffer if he was allowed to go unpunished. They said they would take action in the matter at once. On the next day they arrested him, restored the stolen articles, and brought him to me. I sent them on with him to the post to General Mackenzie, who had him put in the guard-house and made to work around the post for some time. A young Kiowa, arrested by his own people for stealing a horse, is now in the guard-house.

I will conclude with the same sentiment expressed in my annual report to the Hon. Commissioner, that the longer I remain with these people, and the more familiar I become with them, the more am I convinced of the wisdom and philanthropy of the President in inaugurating his humane policy for the government of his dependent red children.

Letter of Jonathan Richards, Indian agent.

WICHITA AGENCY, INDIAN TERRITORY,
Anadarko Post-Office, Eleventhmonth 20, 1875.

Your circular-letter, dated 6th instant, requesting me to send you "a brief and concise statement of such results in respect to the Indians under my charge, showing what progress has been made in education, industry," &c., has been received.

In making suitable and satisfactory answers to these queries, it seems proper, for the purpose of conveying a correct understanding of the results attained in the treatment of the Indians of this agency, that I should give a condensed history of the condition of affairs from the time when the present policy was instituted among them.

My first acquaintance with these Indians was in the spring of 1870, at which time no buildings had been erected, the agency having been discontinued, and the Indians transferred to the agency of the Kiowas and Comanches.

The Wichita agency was re-established in the summer of 1870, and I was appointed special agent in the eighth month of that year, at which date the whole country—now embraced in what is known as the Wichita reservation—was wholly devoid of any sign of civilization, and the Indians were living in grass-houses, skin and canvass lodges, or rude stake-houses covered with grass, bark, or skins.

They were divided into bands, each band having a village. The Wichitas, Wacoos, Ta-wa-ca-nies, and Keechies had their villages contiguous to each other, and near to the Washita River. They cultivated a considerable quantity of bottom-land, and raised corn, beans, melons, pumpkins, &c., the work all being done with the hoe by the women! The Caddoes and Delawares were similarly situated, and their manner of living was very much the same as that of the other bands mentioned, except that a few of the men would assist in the field-labor, which was all done with the hoe, neither plows nor cultivators being used among them.

In reply to your first query, as to education, I have to say that in the autumn of 1871 a school was opened in a rude building which had been erected by a trader, which school has continued without interruption (except during the two months' summer vacations) ever since. In the winter of 1872, a second school was opened, which was continued about one year. This was a day-school, irregularly attended by a few scholars from each of the bands of Wichitas, Wacoos, Ta-wa-ca-nies, and Keechies, for whose especial benefit it was opened. But it was found that these wild, uncultivated children could not be satisfactorily controlled while they were under camp influence more than one-half their time; and, after consultation with their chiefs and head-men, it was concluded that this second school should be discontinued in that locality. A new house having been erected, and the Caddoes and Delawares removed from the building first alluded to, the two schools were combined under the designation of a manual-labor and boarding school.

From the beginnings mentioned, we now have a building well adapted for a boarding-school, there being two wings, each 24 by 60 feet, divided into suitable rooms for the matron, teachers, and other employés, dining-room, kitchen, and pantry, laundry, nursery, girls' chambers, &c. Connecting these two wings is a building 24 by 50 feet, in which is the school-room on the first floor, and the boys' chamber on the second. The whole building is well provided with closets, and the school-room is well furnished with first-class desks, maps, globes, charts, books, and all the requirements of a good school. More than sixty scholars are now in regular attendance; their teachers and caretakers are conscientious in the discharge of their duty; and their deportment as well as their aptness for learning will compare favorably with the children in similar schools outside of the Indian Territory.

Responsive to your second query, with regard to industry, I can truly say that satisfactory progress has been made. During the appropriate season the men generally were busily engaged in their agricultural and general outdoor pursuits. Some of their farms had been fenced at Government expense, but they are now, the Delawares and Caddoes especially, fencing for themselves. Many of them have adopted farming as a business, hunting having become but an incident, instead of being, as formerly, the chief aim of their lives. Portions of each band, under proper restrictions from their agent, occasionally join for the sole purpose of replenishing their stock of provisions, bedding, furs, and skins.

As in the other particulars mentioned, a good degree of progress is apparent in "adopting the costumes and habits of civilized life." Many of the men and women belonging to this agency are glad to receive and wear the clothing and material furnished, and the supplies of wagons, harness, cooking-stoves, grindstones, seed-wheat, and the various implements, appliances, and requirements of civilized life, generally, are so eagerly sought after, as to be exhausted soon after receipt; and these articles are uniformly and diligently applied to their respective legitimate uses. And in this particular, the advance made on "the white man's road," by the Indians under my charge, is remarkably commendable. Equal advance is observable in the disposition of individuals and families to cultivate separate tracts of land, in the hope of making for themselves permanent homes. And the most striking evidence of this disposition is their growing preference for receiving their weekly rations by families instead of by bands, as formerly.

With reference to your fifth query, I desire to state emphatically, that the conduct of the affiliated bands under my charge, in "the matter of cultivating friendly relations" with *all* their neighbors, is wholly unexceptionable, although their "neighbors" are Kiowas and Comanches on the south, with the Cheyennes and Arapahoes on the

north. And the fact will scarcely be controverted from any quarter, that in nearly all the cases where depredations have been committed, whether by whites or other Indians, the members of these affiliated bands have been the principal sufferers.

From the foregoing brief statement of facts, your board will perceive that the general advancement of these Indians has been satisfactory; and, to those who are familiar with Indian character, the progress made by the affiliated bands of this agency is notably encouraging.

Though perhaps not within the scope of your inquiry, I cannot forbear, in this place, to reiterate my statement, that almost every complaint of depredation or improper action arises from interference with, or imposition upon, our Indians by demoralized *white men*; and this fact, so patent by having been so often referred to, and repeated by so many agents, has become, seemingly, "an old, worn-out story."

In conclusion I desire to state that the expression in your circular of the necessity for an *immediate* response, and the continual demand upon my time—at this season especially—from those under my charge, is my apology for the incompleteness of this report.

Letter of Isaac T. Gibson, Indian agent.

OSAGE AGENCY, INDIAN TERRITORY,
Twelfthmonth, 15, 1875.

1. The Osages, excepting about 300 civilizing mixed-bloods, were a wild, roving, and uncontrollable tribe of Indians, and over 3,000 in number when they moved to their present reservation, in May, 1872.

At that time 11 children were in school, now 130 are in schools, making good progress. Their parents are also civilizing, and will not induce their children to return to Indian habits when they leave school, as has been the case formerly, when no successful efforts were made to induce adults to labor.

2. Three years ago but few adult Osages knew how, or were willing, to labor, obtaining their support from the buffalo on the plains, and having the absurd belief fixed in their minds, which is entertained by most white people, that adult Indians could not learn to support themselves by manual labor. At this time the tribe have in good fence over 1,300,000 rails, over 4,500 acres of land in cultivation, from which they have raised, this season, wheat and corn sufficient to bread the tribe, besides a large amount of potatoes, beans, pumpkins, &c. Have over 200 good dwelling-houses, and 150 other buildings, 200 wells, and 20,000 fruit-trees.

3. They have not adopted the costume of the whites to much extent, but are assuming it gradually, against a great deal of prejudice. One hundred and fifty families have wagons, and a larger number have plows, harrows, &c.; over 200 families have bedsteads, chairs, tables, cupboards, and other furniture.

4. Over 350 families have taken claims, and are improving them as permanent homes. The reservation having been sectionized, the claims of over 300 families have been recorded in this office. The remainder of the tribe will doubtless take claims and have them recorded during the winter and spring.

5. Although they have suffered much ill-treatment from some of their white neighbors, yet the tribe has maintained a forgiving spirit toward their enemies.

6. Three years since the tribe consisted of seven bands, now they are fourteen, which is the result of the development in them of individuality and manhood. Some of them do not wish to enroll in a band at all, preferring to obey the laws of the United States through their agent.

Letter of William Burgess, Indian agent.

PAWNEE AGENCY, INDIAN TERRITORY,
Twelfthmonth 9th, 1875.

RESPECTED FRIEND: In response to circular-letter of November 6, 1875, asking for information on seven special queries, I will give a brief statement, as suggested; and regret that my absence from my office has caused some delay.

1. Owing to the scattered condition of our tribe, the Pawnees have not made the progress in education during the year that we all desire, but the manual-labor school at the old reservation in Nebraska was kept in operation until recently, with quite satisfactory results. Day schools are now being organized at the new agency, and the prospect is auspicious.

2. There is now a stronger disposition and tendency in the tribe to labor than ever before, and by another year, if the plans now in progress are successful, we hope to be able to report a most decided movement in the line of self-supporting industry.

3. While we have nothing of marked importance to report by way of change in costumes and civilized habits, I believe there are greater tendencies than ever before among the working-men of the tribe to adopt the citizen's dress and live in comfortable houses.

4. On the removal of our tribe to this Territory it was agreed on the part of the Indians to go on and cultivate separate allotments of land, that they may hold as individual property, and in the opening of the spring we shall place each head of a family on his own tract as fast as possible, and shall assist him in improving and cultivating the same.

5. The Pawnees are peaceable in disposition and hold very friendly relations with all their surrounding white neighbors, though they feel indignant at the white people in Nebraska, on the border of their reservation, who for years have robbed them of their wood in open defiance of all law and all protests.

6. No special progress to report in that direction, though the subject is under consideration and meets with favor from some of the prominent men of the tribe. The separation of the bands and their distribution on separate allotments will pave the way for the dissolution of hereditary titles and other tribal relations, which now obstruct the way to free citizenship.

Letter from John D. Miles, Indian agent.

CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHOE AGENCY,
DARLINGTON, INDIAN TERRITORY, *Twelfthmonth* 11, 1875.

Circular-letter from the chairman of your board, dated 6th ultimo, requesting statistical information concerning education, industry, &c., was received at this office during my absence to the Indian hunting camps west of Camp Supply. I have the honor to report as follows, viz :

1. We have secured the regular attendance of 54 Arapahoe children in our mission school during the greater portion of the past year, and their progress has been good.

2. A greater number of Indians have engaged in farming and other industrial pursuits during the past year than ever before since my connection with this agency. The larger boys connected with the school have made commendable progress under the efficient management of Jno. H. Seger, school-superintendent.

3. Very few outside the school have adopted the costumes and habits of civilized life.

4. Two half-breeds and three full-blood Arapahoes have occupied and cultivated separate tracts of land as permanent homes during the past year. Ten other Arapahoes were assigned each five (5) acres of land in one of the agency fields, which they planted and cultivated with fair success.

5. No white neighbors surrounding the Indians of this agency, except agency employees and the military.

6. Very little progress in this direction, yet I feel quite hopeful of the future for the Cheyennes and Arapahoes.

Letter of John H. Pickering, Indian agent.

SAC AND FOX AGENCY, INDIAN TERRITORY,
Twelfthmonth 6, 1875.

I recently received a communication dated Eleventhmonth 6, 1875, from Clinton B. Fisk, as chairman of your board, asking information as to "the comparative net results of the present Indian policy." I deem it but justice to myself to remark that this agency is fifty miles from a post-office, and is, at present, without any means, or any arrangement for carrying our mail; hence the tardiness of this response to said communication, and if it reaches you too late to be embodied in your report, it will only be another evidence that our mail facilities should be better.

1. *Concerning education* : Two schools have been sustained for nearly three years, with a total enrollment of about ninety-five, (95.) Of this number (a) ten read in the Fifth Reader, six have studied United States History, four have completed "Steele's Fourteen Weeks in Physiology" quite thoroughly. Two can analyze any ordinary English sentence, and parse any common word, and this grade are alike proficient in the other common branches. (b) About twenty read in the Fourth Reader, and are equally advanced in the other branches of this grade. (c) About twenty-five read in the Third Reader. (d) About twenty read in the Second Reader. (e) About ten read in the First Reader, and about ten read in the primer, and from charts, &c. The above gives as correct an idea of the present status of our educational work as is practicable, without being prolix. This progress has been made during the last six years, and nearly all (I would say ninety-five per cent.) has been made during the last three years.

2. *Industry*: There are 1,689 Indians under the jurisdiction of this agency. There are eight hundred (estimated) of this number who have acquired habits of industry, and perform sufficient manual labor to be self-supporting. Nearly all the Indians in the agency do some manual labor, and aid in their support.

3. Forty (40) per cent. have adopted the customs and habits of civilized life, and live in houses mostly built by themselves.

4. In every instance within my knowledge where there are Indian fields, they are owned and worked by individuals and families, with a view of making them their permanent homes. About four hundred absentee Shawnees have taken their allotments in accordance with an act providing them homes in the Indian Territory.

5. We are entirely surrounded with Indian tribes; there are no whites nearer than ninety miles.

6. All three of the tribes within this agency adhere firmly to their tribal organizations, but the will of the chiefs is not regarded, and does not seem to be embodied in their religious belief, as it once was. The change in this respect is very perceptible.

Letter of S. A. Russell, Indian agent.

ABIQUIU INDIAN AGENCY,
Tierra Amarilla, N. M., November 20, 1875.

In answer to circular-letter of Hon. Clinton B. Fish, under date of November 6, I have the honor to reply to your several inquiries in order.

1. This agency is not on a reservation, consequently no attempt has been made to educate the Indian. The Apaches attached to it express an anxiety that there should be.

2. No progress in industry, for the same reason.

3. A large majority would adopt the costumes of civilized life if provided by the Government.

4. Apaches express a desire to do so, Utes do not.

5. Entire friendship with all others.

6. Not any.

Letter of E. H. Danforth, Indian agent.

WHITE RIVER, COLORADO, December 9, 1875.

SIR: I hereby acknowledge the receipt of your circular-letter of November 6, 1875, requesting me to furnish certain information, as derived from my experience at this agency, of the working and results of the present Indian policy. In reply, I answer as follows:

1. *Education*.—Upon my arrival at this agency, July 1, 1874, to take charge of its affairs, I found no school in operation, and was told that comparatively little had been attempted in this direction. I appointed a teacher, and one has been engaged at this agency since that date. The school, at different periods, of the character of a day, a boarding, and an industrial school. We have had about forty different scholars altogether in attendance. During nine months, from October 1, 1874, the average attendance was about eleven, with an average of boarders of eight.

Some two hundred garments, after the pattern of civilized costume, were made during the year by the female attendants of the school, under the direction and with the assistance of the teacher.

Five boys, between the ages of thirteen and twenty-five, learned to read, to write simple sentences, and to reckon simple sums in English, besides much from other oral exercises.

Quite a number of Indians, besides those attending the school, have learned to understand and to talk a little English.

2. *Industry*.—But little has been accomplished, as yet, in this direction, the Indians here showing a decided preference for hunting as a means of obtaining their subsistence. They, however, say that when the game is gone they will farm and tend their cattle. Two families are engaged, at present, in farming and raising sheep; two others attempted it the last summer, but have given it up. I have had three or four Indians, at different times, to assist me in the saw-mill, at herding, and in gathering hay, one under regular pay.

3. *Adoption of the costumes and habits of civilized life*.—Perhaps one-third (my total number is eleven hundred at present) of the Indians here show a preference for the citizen's dress; but it is expensive and difficult for them to obtain it. The small supply that is sent here in the regular annuity supplies is soon appropriated and

put to good use; almost none of it is traded away. I know of but three suits of clothing having been traded this year, out of seventy-five suits received and distributed. I always do what I can to prevent this, but cannot succeed in every instance. Formerly the clothing was very little valued.

4. *Disposition of individuals to occupy and cultivate separate tracts of land as permanent homes.*—Very little disposition in this direction has been manifested as yet. Two families, as aforesaid, occupy permanent homes, and, at the present writing, we are engaged in putting up two houses, to be occupied permanently by two other families.

5. *Cultivation of friendly relations with surrounding white neighbors.*—I have no hesitation in stating that I regard the relations existing at present between the Ute Indians of this agency and all of their white neighbors (*at least on the part of the Indians*) as perfectly friendly. I know of not a single act of violence committed by an Indian against a white person upon or near this portion of the Ute reserve. I know of but one single depredation committed by an Indian upon the property of white persons within the year, and that only the killing of one steer. Should any Indian be guilty of theft or violence against the whites, he would not be sustained or favored by the Indians here, and it would only be done by one who, even among themselves, bears a bad character, and is looked down upon. Of such characters we have some, of course, among eleven hundred. Their peculiar condition, however, I do not consider incident to their Indian nature or life. We should find an equal number, I think, among a like number of white people, inhabitants of this country.

I consider the condition of the Indians, in all the foregoing aspects, as improving, as promising future improvement, and as arguing in favor of the present policy of the Government in its treatment of and dealings with them. I only regret that the white people with whom they are brought in contact and intercourse do not have a little more forbearance with and confidence in (tempered with judgment) the Indian.

6. *Generally, what, if any, progress has been made toward the discontinuance of tribal relations, and preparations for the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship?*—I find that, among the Indians here, very little importance is attached to the matter of tribal relations, considered, that is, among themselves as a people or great tribe or nation. The Utes of this agency originally embraced several distinct bands, having their several chiefs and subchiefs. We now hear very little, if anything, of these subdivisions. The Indians here all style themselves White River Utes, to distinguish themselves simply from Indians who make their homes at and draw their supplies from other agencies. I think that at present very little authority is exercised by any of the under chiefs.

Letter of James B. Thompson, Indian agent.

SPECIAL UTE AGENCY,
Denver, Colorado, November 18, 1875.

SIR: Replying to the circular of 6th instant, issued by the chairman of your honorable board, asking information as to what "progress has been made under the present policy by Indians in education, industry, &c.," I regret the necessity for having to make a very brief and perhaps unsatisfactory report as regards the Indians under my charge.

No facilities whatever have been afforded the agent here, either for educating these Indians or encouraging them in industrial pursuits.

They have generally adopted the costumes of civilized life, and have sedulously avoided the practice of those evil habits commonly supposed to prevail among Indians coming directly in contact with the whites. They have carefully sought to cultivate and maintain the most amicable relations with their white neighbors, and while the records of this office, for the past two years, show that during that period several acts of petty depredation, and one homicide, have been committed by Utes directly under my charge, the evidence in each case proves the white man to have been the aggressor, and in two instances shows that white "bummers" were guilty of wantonly attempting to destroy Indian life and property.

These Indians still keep up their tribal relations, and are under the leadership of men chosen for their intelligence and sagacity, and who are retained in power during good behavior.

I have no evidence to show that any of them have ever been desirous of assuming the duties and responsibilities of American citizenship, and I do not think that such a desire will be manifested until the Government more carefully regards the rights accorded them under their several treaties. The tardiness of the authorities in regard to certain important provisions of the famous "Brunot treaty," is not calculated to inspire this people with any great degree of enthusiasm or even respect for the powers that be.

I believe that so soon as this tribe is convinced that they will be protected in their

right to the soil they are expected to cultivate, they will locate and cultivate separate tracts of land as permanent homes; but while the feeling prevails that they must always give way to the white race, I see no inducement for them to undertake the establishment of such homes for themselves and families.

Finally, believing that the present Indian policy is pre-eminently wise and humane in theory, and has been eminently successful in practice, considering the means at its command and the time it has been tried, I cannot help indulging the hope that no change will be made in its management except such as will result in the removal of bad or inefficient officers, and in the enactment of a regulation to allow its agents decent salaries.

Letter of J. J. Critchlow, Indian agent.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, November 15, 1875.

SIR: I have this day received your circular of the 6th instant, and, as I am about to leave for my agency and do not expect to be back, or have mail facilities from my agency for months to come, I will answer immediately. My agency is two hundred miles distant from this city, my only point of business.

1. *Education.*—Our school has been small; but those who have attended, though irregularly, have made good progress; and, could we take entire charge of the pupils, in the absence of their parents on their hunting and visiting expeditions, would do well. None but boys have as yet been induced to attend.

2. *Industry.*—Many of our Indians, say one-half, manifest a growing inclination to agricultural industry. They have not yet been induced to work, except for themselves, and at farm-labor. They have raised, this year, about twelve hundred bushels of wheat, besides potatoes and other vegetables.

3. *Adoption of the costumes and habits of civilized life.*—There is among our Indians a growing disposition to do so, and I most heartily agree with the recommendation of the late investigating committee, that nothing but clothing made up be furnished them, and think that instruction in the manufacture of their own clothing should be a part of the instruction given, as is the custom with us, so far as it can be done.

4. *Disposition of individuals and families to occupy and cultivate separate tracts of land as permanent homes.*—There is evidently an increasing disposition to do so. Some of them have farms, which they claim and cultivate year after year, and are known and recognized as belonging to them. Some have even erected rude buildings and other improvements, and are beginning to see the necessity and advantage of better shelter. We encourage them in this direction, and have and intend aiding them in this matter, but think it better to let them see the necessity of helping themselves.

5. *The cultivation of friendly relations with white neighbors.*—Our Indians are at peace with all whites, and manifest and express kindly feelings toward those who are settling near, but beyond the limits of the reservation.

6. The tribal relation exists only in name. We have a nominal head chief; but most of our Indians act independently, except in some particular cases. In my opinion the abolishment of the tribal relation would be a step in the right direction; though few if any of them are prepared for the assumption of citizenship, yet I think that would hasten the time when they would be.

In conclusion, I would say that though, as we think, much progress has been made, and a general growing improvement is manifested, still much remains to be done, and the continuation and more full development of the present policy of the Government is the only sure way of accomplishing it at the earliest period.

Letter of W. E. Truax, Indian agent.

MOQUIS PUEBLO INDIAN AGENCY,
Arizona Territory, December 31, 1875.

SIR: Your circular, dated November 6, is received, in which you request certain information respecting the Indians under my charge, which I will answer in their regular order:

1. About four years ago a school was established among them for the first time. It has been continued, with some interruptions, from that time to the present, with encouraging results.

The children and youth have shown a capacity for the acquisition of letters equal to their white cousins. A manual-labor and boarding school, with an attendance of twenty-five or thirty boys, is in successful operation.

The school is located fifteen miles from the nearest Indian habitation. The scholars

being thus removed from daily intercourse with other Indians, and mingling constantly with their teachers and others, are gradually acquiring the English language. Occasionally a scholar is required by his parents to spend a few days in herding sheep and goats. At such times he requests the privilege of taking his books with him, that he may read while his herd is grazing.

2. They are industrious and almost self-sustaining, receiving but little aid from the General Government, except in maintaining schools. They live in villages, in permanent abodes, and are an agricultural and pastoral people. The country they occupy is poor, and yields but a meager reward for the labor bestowed upon the soil. But they are so much attached to the homes of their fathers they cannot be induced to abandon them for a more promising locality.

3. So far as they can command the means they readily adopt the American costume. They raise many of our domestic animals and fowls, including cats and chickens.

4. Every family has its own little farm or parcel of ground, with which no one interferes. Each one enjoys the fruits of his own labor. There are degrees of wealth among them, the same as other people.

5. They are peaceable, inoffensive, and well disposed toward the white man.

6. Some progress has been made toward the discontinuance of tribal relations through the influence of the schools during the last four years.

The Bible and the common school are the two great gifts the Indian needs more than all things else combined.

I can truly say that substantial progress has been made toward a higher civilization among these Indians since the adoption of the present policy toward them.

Letter of John W. Cornyn, Indian agent.

PAPAGO AGENCY,
Tucson, Ariz., November 27, 1875.

SIR: In reply to your circular of the 6th ultimo, I beg to state when entering upon my duties as agent of the Papagos, on the 13th of April, 1875, I found much opposition to the school from the captains and heads of families. They feared when their children became educated the Government would take them away. This prejudice has been dispelled, and at present the captains and parents take quite a lively interest in the education of their children. This is evidenced by the difference in the daily attendance, which in the month of February last was thirty scholars. The daily attendance for the present month is eighty-seven; the irregular attendance for the same time is twenty-five. The improvement of the pupils is all that could be expected.

The Papago Indians are noted for industry, sobriety, and virtue. They readily adopt the costumes and many of the habits of civilized life. The absence of clothing among these Indians only occurs where they have not the means to procure it. Many of the Papagos cultivate the land, and always as separate proprietors; some of them are to-day cultivating the fields that had been assigned to their immediate ancestors by the early missionary fathers. During the last century the Papagos have been noted for the friendly relations which they have maintained with the white population, and of late years, when trouble arose between the Indian tribes and the whites, they marshalled themselves as the defenders of our race.

They evince no disposition to sever their tribal relations; on the contrary, they cling with the most persistent tenacity to their kindred, to their homes, and the ashes of their fathers.

They do not comprehend the responsibility to be incurred or the privileges to be derived from citizenship.

Letter of Thomas J. Jeffords.

CHIRICAHUA INDIAN AGENCY,
Apache Pass, Arizona, November 27, 1875.

SIR: In compliance with instructions contained in circular from board of Indian commissioners, dated November 6, 1875, I have the honor to submit the following statements, viz:

1. *Education.*—Has not been attempted with these Indians, there being no available funds for the employment of teachers, erection of school-house, or purchase of books, and other essential objects.

2. *Industry.*—The Indians upon this reservation have never worked, in the usual sense of the word, previous to the peace; the men were continually engaged in hunting and making war, while the women performed the duties incidental to camp-life, *i. e.*,

gathering wood, bringing water, and cooking. Since they have made peace I have not yet been able to engage them in farming or other industrial pursuits, for want of proper facilities.

3. *Adoption of the costumes and habits of civilized life.*—These Indians have a strong objection to the costume of Americans, and retain their primitive habits and customs.

4. These Indians are not an agricultural race.

5. The relations with the surrounding white neighbors are friendly; although rarely visiting the settlements, they will trace up and recover any lost or stolen property, or assist them in any way they are able.

6. Little if any progress has been made toward the discontinuance of the tribal relations, nor is it advisable at present; there are a number of the Indians whom it is impossible to control unless they are under the immediate supervision of trustworthy Indians; and should the tribal relations be broken up, and the wilder Apaches left to their own devices, a series of robberies would ensue that would reflect upon the better class of Indians equally with those to whom the blame should be attached. They have no idea of citizenship, or imagine that it would put them on an equal footing with the Mexicans, a class whom they both despise and hate.

Letter of J. L. Burchard, Indian agent.

ROUND VALLEY RESERVATION,
Covelo, Mendocino County, Cal., December 6, 1875.

SIR: Owing to the great storms of rain, the mail has been delayed by the way; your circular letter of November 6, 1875, could not be answered sooner. I answer:

1. The Indians under my charge are making commendable progress in learning, as you will find by monthly reports of our school-teacher, on file in the office of Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

2. The Indians are as industrious as the like number of any other race of people would be under similar circumstances. Scores of them are excellent farm-hands, can drive teams, plow, sow grain, run any machinery, a thrashing-machine or a steam-engine. We have three engineers, one good head sawyer, one saddler, &c., among the *full-blooded* Indians.

3. The entire population on this reservation (remnants of seven different tribes) have adopted the costumes and habits of civilized life; every wild habit or heathen custom has been abandoned, I *trust* forever; *surely* so if they are carefully managed a short time longer.

4. There is a strong disposition with the Indians of this agency "to occupy and cultivate separate tracts of land as permanent homes." Notwithstanding an act was passed by Congress March 3, 1873, fixing three lines of the boundaries of this reservation, and in June, 1873, the commissioners established the fourth line, yet we are not in possession of any more land than we had in 1872; consequently the Indians are much dissatisfied. If we get our new territory we can give Indian families separate homes; as it is, we cannot. I trust we may soon get the new territory.

5. The very *best* "friendly relations" exist between the Indians of this agency and their white neighbors; perfect peace prevails.

6. Tribal relations can only be broken up by giving the Indians separate homes, and thus scatter them. Great progress has been made in preparing the Indians for the responsibilities of citizenship; many of them are *now* fully qualified for self-support and citizenship, which they should have.

Letter of S. S. Dyar, Indian agent.

KLAMATH AGENCY, OREGON,
November 25, 1875.

SIR: In response to a circular letter of Hon. Clinton B. Fiske, chairman of Indian commissioners, concerning results of the present Indian policy, I respectfully submit the following brief statement:

1. *Education.*—A manual-labor boarding-school has been established, and is in a prosperous condition. The average attendance of both sexes is from 20 to 25; highest number in attendance, 29. The scholars have made commendable progress, both in their studies and in various kinds of manual labor.

2. *Industry.*—The Klamaths and Modocs are naturally willing to work, and are becoming, each year, more industrious. Many of them labor as steadily and as diligently as the whites of the surrounding country.

The Snakes are proverbially indolent and worthless, and those on this reservation form no exception to those of the tribe located elsewhere. They manifest but little desire for mental or moral improvement, and consequently make but slow progress in any of the habits of civilization. They are, however, peaceable, and not disposed to resist any proper authority. They number about 100 only.

3. *Adoption of the costumes of civilized life.*—All the Indians of this reservation have long since adopted the dress of the white man, and, considering their naturally nomadic propensities, have acquired to a commendable degree the habits and customs of civilized life. Many of them are living with their families in good log or frame houses, and are constantly improving their little farms by fencing, plowing, &c., and, although somewhat dependent on the fruits of the chase, from the natural unfitness of the country for agriculture, still most of them persevere from year to year in their efforts to till the soil.

Others there are—among whom are the Snakes—who may desire to conform to the white man's customs, but lack the energy.

If this country and climate were adapted to agriculture, nearly all these Indians, except the Snakes, would soon be self-supporting from that source, but the extreme altitude, and the proximity to snow mountains, causing heavy summer frosts, make most of their efforts in that direction fruitless.

Stock-raising is the only means by which these Indians, in conformity to civilization, can ever secure a permanent livelihood, and to this branch of industry most of them are directing their attention.

5. *The cultivation of friendly relations with surrounding white neighbors.*—These Indians manifest no feelings of hostility toward any of their white neighbors. They seem perfectly friendly toward them all, and are even ready to work for, or otherwise aid them, for a reasonable compensation.

6. *Concerning tribal relations.*—Tribal relations are scarcely recognized at all now on this reservation, and these Indians—Snakes always excepted—are very nearly or quite prepared to dissolve all tribal relations when it is for their interest to do so.

Letter of George P. Litchfield, Indian agent.

ALSEA INDIAN AGENCY,
December 6, 1875.

SIR: In reply to your circular-letter of November 6th, asking for information upon certain matters concerning the present Indian policy, &c., I would say, viz:

1. *Education.*—This is the first year that these Indians have had a school, and with twelve years' experience with Indian schools, I have never seen the advancement made here excelled anywhere. Some have made proficiency in reading and spelling, that would almost seem impossible for Indians in the short space of nine months.

2. *Industry.*—Labor is on the increase and is sought after by them. Some command good wages among lumbermen and farmers, and all are anxious to improve their houses and homes.

3. *Dress.*—They readily adopt the costume of the whites, and all wear citizens' clothes.

4. *Property and homes.*—The desire of having separate homes and property of their own, independently and not in common, is rapidly on the increase.

5. *Good will.*—They desire to live on friendly terms with the whites, and are anxious to have their good will.

6. *Tribal relations.*—Within the past year quite a number are preparing to disband from the tribes and become citizens, and take up land according to the act of Congress.

In my opinion it will need some special legislation to make it more simple and easy for Indians to comply with the homestead act, and for their protection, &c. They will need advice and counsel all the way along, and these Indians in particular. By the acts of the last Congress, their reservation is in reality passing out of their hands, as you will see by referring to the same.

Letter of Samuel B. Parrish, Indian agent.

MALHEUR INDIAN AGENCY, OREGON,
December 4, 1875.

SIR: In answer to the interrogatories as set forth in your circular, bearing date November 6, 1875, I have to state as follows:

1. *Education.*—We have as yet no school for the instruction of children, the agency not having been in a condition to carry one on, and for lack of buildings for the same,

but in a few days I shall be able to report a school-house completed, and a school in operation.

2. *Industry.*—Nearly all my able-bodied adult males have been assisting me in the work pertaining to the agency during the present year. There are a few exceptions among my Indians, of young men who are inclined to be lazy, yet I trust in a short time, by moral suasion, and a gentle degree of force, to induce them to put their hands to the plow. They have not worked continuously, but whenever I have called upon them they have, with the few exceptions above noted, responded readily, and I am proud of the amount of work they have done, and the eagerness which they have exhibited to learn. They have assisted in putting in and gathering all the crops on the agency farm and Indian farm, and have done a large amount of ditching.

3. *Adoption of costumes and habits of civilized life.*—These Indians are still living in their tents, or wigwams, for the reason that the agency has not as yet had an appropriation that would justify building of houses for them. This year I have procured material for tents for the best working men, and they are now engaged in making them up. In matters of dress, nearly all of them have thrown away their primitive garb, i. e. the breech-clout, and are now wearing a citizen's dress.

4. *Disposition of individuals, or families, to occupy and cultivate separate tracts of land as permanent homes.*—None of the Indians, individually, or as families, have taken tracts of land, and located thereon, though there are many of them talking about it. Until the present year they had never had any instruction in farming, and knew nothing about manual labor; indeed, many of them had never seen any lands tilled or crops put in. I deem that the only successful course to follow to induce these Indians to settle down, is to in the first place choose a tract for each family, and put up thereon a permanent house, one that they cannot pack up and carry away on their ponies at any moment. But before this can be done, we must have a saw-mill, and also a grist-mill to grind their wheat, in order that they may see the actual benefit, even while they are laboring.

5. *The cultivation of friendly relations with surrounding white neighbors.*—They are all friendly with the white people and say they want to be brothers to the whites, yet they desire that the whites do not encroach too near. They say, we are doing our best, and want to know why the whites won't meet them half-way, as brothers should, instead of trying to take their land away from them, little by little. They are much exercised over the petition now before the Department, asking that Harney Lake Basin and Silvie's River Valley be cut off from their reserve.

6. *Progress towards discontinuance of tribal relations, and preparation for privileges and responsibilities of citizenship.*—This agency was begun only two years ago last August. At that time these Indians were scattered through the mountains, and hardly knew the meaning of the word "agency." I was then acting as "commissary in charge," (there being no agent,) under the instruction of Superintendent Odneal. I came to this place with no appropriation therefor, and obtained lumber to put up some buildings, which were erected that fall and in the early part of the winter. In February, 1874, I was relieved by Mr. Linville, who was stationed here as agent. During that winter he had trouble with these Indians, and sent for a detachment of troops to protect the employes. In August, 1874, I returned and superseded Mr. Linville as agent, since which time I have been in charge; so you see that these Indians have had but a short time in which to improve in any respect. They have always been taught to believe in the romance of a wild tribal relation, and our customs are an entirely new innovation upon all their ancient usages, laws, and relations, and it takes time to bring them around to our views. Talk won't convince them at all times; they must have "works." They must be brought to see an advantage in everything before they undertake it.

I am proud to say of them that during the short time they have been under my charge as agent they have done well, truly nobly, for children who had never known what it was to work. One year and a half ago the word "work" was not embraced in their vocabulary, but now you can hear them in almost every conversation using the word "work," "work," they having adopted the English word in lieu of one in their own language.

As a raw, green, wild race of human beings, who knew not the first principles of civilization, I can truly say that during the past spring, summer, and autumn they have taken many a long stride in advancement.

As soon as our school can possibly be commenced I think I will be able to report a great deal of interest on their part in that department.

Letter of J. H. Fairchild, Indian agent.

SILETZ, OREGON, INDIAN AGENCY,
December 10, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of circular from your board, of date November 6th, asking certain particulars relative to the advancement of the Indians

under my charge. In compliance with such request I respectfully submit the following:

1. *Education*.—On assuming charge in April, 1873, I found great opposition in the minds of the Indians to schools. Their superstitious fears had been excited by the death of several school-children, and they were unwilling to send their children. This opposition has been entirely overcome, and the school now numbers from thirty-five to fifty regular attendants, whose progress is most satisfactory. The children learn rapidly, are orderly, cleanly in their persons, and will compare favorably with county schools in any part of the State.

2. *Industry*.—All are willing to work; many are employed by farmers in the vicinity, and give good satisfaction as laborers. Nearly all cultivate land of their own, some having farms of forty to sixty acres in cultivation.

3. *Adoption of costumes and habits of civilized life*.—All wear the dress of whites, and are rapidly adopting all their customs.

4. *Disposition to occupy and cultivate separate tracts of land, &c.*—Tracts of land, varying from twenty to one hundred acres, according to the ability to cultivate, have been allotted to the heads of families. Many have erected houses and barns; all will do so as soon as the saw-mill shall be so far completed as to enable them to procure lumber.

5. *Cultivation of friendly relations with white neighbors*.—Rarely, indeed, are complaints made against the Indians. They have the good will of nearly every white in the vicinity.

6. *Progress toward the discontinuance of tribal relations, &c.*—Tribal relations now exercise very slight influence over the Siletz Indians. Let a sufficient sum be appropriated to complete the saw and grist mill now building, and I see no reason to doubt but they will soon become fully capable of caring for themselves. Many are now as well fitted to exercise the duties of citizenship as the average of white men. It is hoped that a few years of faithful Christian labor may bring the majority to that condition.

In this connection I beg to allude to a matter which, though not strictly coming under any of the heads on which I am requested to report, yet has a very great influence on all efforts to improve the Indians. I allude to the manner of letting awards for Indian supplies.

Last year the award for furnishing blankets for the different agencies of Oregon and Washington was made to Jacobs Bros. & Co., of Portland. The blankets furnished were of excellent quality and gave good satisfaction. This year the award was made to Fleishner, Meyer & Co. at some 12½ cents less per pair, and of very inferior quality. The same firm received the contract for dry goods, and, while some articles were of fair quality, others were almost worthless. The blankets that Jacobs Bros. & Co. furnished last year were worth fully \$1.50 per pair more than those furnished this year by Fleishner, Meyer & Co., yet the difference in price was only 12½ cents. Whether the goods this year were up to the samples I do not know, not having been present at the award.

I respectfully submit whether it would not be better, in letting these awards, to give preference, other things being equal, to those contractors whose previous dealings with the Department have shown that they may be relied on to deal honestly and fairly.

Letter of James H. Wilbur, Indian agent.

YAKAMA INDIAN AGENCY,
Fort Simcoe, Wash., December 9, 1875.

SIR: Your request for a concise statement of results in respect to the Indians under my charge, showing what progress has been made, is just received, and I hasten to reply:

1. *Education*.—Two hundred and fifty have been instructed to read and write, and most of that number have some knowledge of arithmetic and geography, and are able to do business understandingly.

2. *Industry*.—When I began with them there was not one acre of ground cultivated; they lived on roots and fish. Now they have ten thousand acres fenced, and, I think, four thousand in cultivation. Thirty thousand bushels of grain have been raised the past year, sufficient to subsist the nation. We issue nothing except to the sick and blind.

3. *Adoption of the costume and habits of civilized life*.—The population is 3,500. I think three-fourths of that number adopt the habits and costume of civilized life.

4. *Disposition of Indians and families to occupy and cultivate separate tracts of land for permanent homes*.—All the land cultivated by individuals and families is in severalty.

5. *The cultivation of friendly relations with surrounding white neighbors*.—There has never been any disturbance with the whites since the treaty in 1855.

6. *What, if any, progress has been made toward the discontinuance of tribal relations and*

preparation for the privileges and responsibilities of citizens?—Their land has been surveyed, and they have settled upon it; building permanent fences, good houses, and barns; have teams, horses, wagons, harness, plows, and all kinds of tools to become thrifty farmers. There are five hundred members of the church, good church edifices, and the children that have been educated are capable mechanics in the different departments of business. At the expiration of the treaty the Indians of this agency will be self-supporting.

Letter of Edwin Eells, Indian agent.

SKOKOMISH AGENCY,
Mason County, Wash., December 2, 1875.

DEAR SIR: I am in receipt of your circular-letter dated November 6, 1875, and in answer would say that, in respect to *education*, there is among the Indians an advance. Last year this time our school numbered about 20 scholars of Indian children, while at the present time the regular daily attendance of Indian children is 34. Our boarding-house, which contains accommodations for only 20, is crowded to its utmost capacity, and has 27. Other families provide for 4, and 3 come from their own homes. Never since I have been here has the interest in the school been so good. We are now obliged to turn them away for want of room.

Industry.—Their peculiar circumstances in this respect have been peculiarly discouraging. They have not been allowed to cut logs on the reservation as heretofore, but the efforts they have made to find work, and the willingness they have shown to work for small pay when they could not do better, is evidence that their habits of industry are becoming deeply rooted.

They are more and more adopting the customs and habits of the whites. Those on the reservation live in houses, cook on stoves, sit in chairs, sleep on bedsteads, and eat at tables. Their desire to occupy and cultivate separate tracts of land is growing. One band under my charge has purchased a tract of land with their own money, on which they pay taxes, have subdivided it into smaller lots and assigned it to individual members of their band, who are cultivating it, building houses, and making comfortable homes. Others on the reservation are making steady progress.

Their relations with the surrounding white neighbors are now, as they always have been, friendly. The only exception is one or two instances where a low class of whites have retaliated on the Indians for testifying against them in court for selling liquor to the Indians, by burning their houses.

Their tribal relations never have been strong and are continually lessening. In all that makes the *man*, there is, I am happy to say, a steady progress and hopeful prospect, if the present policy remains in force. Drunkenness is the great bane, and while somewhat lessening among them, is still a terrible evil.

Letter of John A. Simms, Indian agent.

FORT COLVILLE, WASH.,
December 5, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 6th ultimo, received to-day, requesting of me a brief and concise statement of some of the net results of the present Indian policy in respect to the Indians under my charge.

In reply I would respectfully state that the progress made in education is highly gratifying. The children show an aptness for learning, and the progress made in their studies will compare favorably with that made by white children in the same length of time. The Indians of this agency are noted for their industry, and manifest an increasing desire to follow civilized pursuits and to adopt the customs and habits of civilized life. There is an increasing tendency to occupy and cultivate separate tracts of land as permanent homes, and there would be a marked progress in that respect if they could be convinced that their homes would be permanent and that they would be protected in them.

They continue to cultivate friendly relations with their white neighbors; but evince but little disposition to abandon their tribal relations and assume the responsibilities of civilized life. So far as these Indians are concerned, however, the present policy may be regarded as eminently successful.

Letter of C. A. Huntington, Indian agent.

NEAH BAY INDIAN RESERVATION, WASH.,

December 8, 1875.

SIR: The circular of your honorable board, dated November 6, has just arrived, and I haste to respond. The commencement of my relation to the Neah Bay Indians is of too recent date to enable me to report very marked or radical results of the policy under which I am endeavoring to act. The tribe is one of the rudest and least civilized of all the tribes I have ever known. They are a sea-going people, who live mainly by fishing and the securing of fur-seals that abound in these waters. Both the soil and the climate of this reservation are uncongenial to agriculture, and in this direction there are no inducements to turn the Indians aside from their favorite pursuits. In customs, in manners, in the structure of their rude lodges, and in their general manner of life I can see as yet but little improvement. Still they are a peaceable tribe, easily restrained from criminal interference with the rights of each other and of surrounding neighbors. They, like all Indians, are selfish and prone to dishonesty; but they are easily governed, and thus far I have found no difficulty in enforcing the laws and regulations of the service. In but one instance have I had occasion to ask aid of the military. That was the case of an Indian who went into the neighborhood of the garrison ninety miles distant and there got intoxicated. Learning of the fact, I requested the commander of the post to arrest him, which he did, and thus administered a salutary lesson not only to him but to all who, like him, are inclined to drunkenness when beyond restraint.

The educational work began a year ago is the main appliance by means of which I hope to elevate ultimately these degraded people. There has been the form of a school kept here under previous agents. The school-house in which it was kept is situated in the midst of Indian camps at Neah Bay, and the children, when not in school, were permitted to remain in the midst of all the influences of Indian life. There are no results of the school now visible in the tribe that prove it to have been in years past anything better than a failure; nor do I think it possible to make it a success except by separating the children entirely from the life in which they were born, and subjecting them exclusively to the control of instructors. Acting upon this principle, I inaugurated the school about a year ago in my own family. The premises occupied are the same used formerly by H. A. Webster (late Indian agent) as a trading-post, situated at Bahadu Point, two miles distant from the nearest Indian camp. The plan of the school is that of a family boarding-school, into which the children are taken only upon the well-understood condition that the parents surrender to the agent the exclusive guardianship and care of the children. Believing, as I do, that a right home-influence is the only guarantee of virtue and wisdom for the children of any race, I conceived the idea of giving to these Indian children the benefits of a Christian home and subjecting them to all the regulations of a well-ordered family, keeping them entirely out of camp life, and as much as possible away from Indian influence. My school began with only 4 boys. I have now in my family 12 boys and 9 girls. To the work of training these children in the knowledge of letters, in the improvement of their manners, in the practice of virtue, and in habits of industry, myself and family, with such assistance as we needed, have addressed ourselves constantly since the organization of the school. Every parent knows that the rearing of children is not the work of one but of many successive years, and that it is only by patient continuance in wholesome discipline, seconded by pure example and sound moral precepts, that the foundations of character can be laid. The results of our work thus far are quite as satisfactory as I expected in the outset. The children in the school have settled into the feeling that this is their home; they manifest no desire to leave their home; they have made creditable progress in reading, spelling, writing, and a few of them in arithmetic. They are obedient, and in all respects as well behaved as a like number of white children promiscuously collected would be. They are all practiced daily in vocal music led by their teacher and the accompaniment of a good organ. The girls are instructed in needle-work and in all the various duties of the kitchen, the dining-room, and chamber. The boys are exercised in different kinds of manual labor under the personal lead of the agent who works with them in the garden, meadow, or forest, according to the requirements of the season. The present number of pupils about fills the capacity of our present quarters; but an addition to our house is now erected and in process of completion of sufficient capacity for all that will probably come into the school. When this enlargement is finished I intend to use the most vigorous means to bring all the children of suitable age into the school. I have asked the Commissioner to issue a compulsory order requiring the Indians to put their children into the school; with the aid of such an order, and with the assurance of time to carry out my plan, I have no misgiving as to the ultimate result. The question of time is, of course, like everything future, one of much uncertainty. All I can do is to address myself each successive day faithfully to the work that my hand and my brain find to do, holding myself ready to lay down

the work when either the appointing power or the Great Master shall call me from it. It is my high ambition to rear up a large class of these Indian children under kind, paternal, Christian culture; to give them a knowledge of letters, of work, of morals and religion, and to develop in them that practical good sense that will steer them clear of all barbarism and insure them the blessings of a civilized life. I feel now that I am at the very threshold of the work, and I look into the future, with all its discouragements, with strong hope of success; peradventure the same beneficent policy so wisely inaugurated by our present Chief Magistrate shall remain intact.

Letter of R. H. Milroy, Indian agent.

OFFICE AGENCY NISQUALLY, PUYALLUP, AND OTHER INDIAN TRIBES,
Olympia, Wash., December 17, 1875.

DEAR SIR: I received, on the 25th ultimo, the printed circular-letter of Gen. C. B. Fiske, chairman of your board, of the 6th ultimo, asking for information on six different points, or subjects, relative to the progress in civilization, &c., of the Indians belonging to this agency, of which I only took charge on the 18th of October last. But the tribes and reservations composing this agency had previously been under my special charge as superintendent of Indian affairs, Washington Territory, for about two years; and after the abolition of that office, they were only about fifteen months from under my charge. Hence, I am better acquainted with their condition and progress than if I had only taken charge of them with my present office.

I have been delayed in writing this answer by being detained twenty-two days, almost continuously, at the sick-bed of my youngest son, ten years old, of that terrible disease, typhoid fever, of which he died on the 9th instant. Since the burial of my dear boy, on the 11th instant, an accumulation of pressing official duties has kept me from giving attention to this matter till to-day. By direction of said circular, I address this answer to you. Deeply regretting my unavoidable failure to make "an immediate response," which will probably render this answer worthless for the purposes desired, yet believing it is better to answer late than never, I will proceed to answer the six interrogatories or points briefly, as follows. But first, as to the status of this agency: It is composed of six reservations, four of which are treaty and two non-treaty reservations. The annuities under the treaty setting apart the four treaty reservations expired in April last, after running twenty years. The treaty required the Government, during said twenty years, to maintain for the benefit of the Indians one school-teacher and one assistant school-teacher, one physician, one farmer, one carpenter, one blacksmith, and one interpreter. Since the expiration of the treaty, the carpenter and interpreter have been discontinued, and the physician will be discontinued from the last of this month. But one school was maintained for said four reservations during said twenty years, most of the time at Puyallup, where it is still continued.

For two and a half years prior to July last, a school was maintained at the Chehalis reservation for the non-treaty Indians; but it was discontinued on the 30th of June last, by my predecessor, for want of funds.

1. *Education.*—The Indian school-children of the Chehalis school were many of them able to read and write, and were making progress in arithmetic, grammar, and geography when the school was discontinued. The boys, besides attending school, were being, by out-door labors, trained to habits of industry. The girls, in addition to schooling, were being trained in household duties, sewing, making, mending, &c. But since the discontinuance of this school these children have returned to their savage parents, and are lapsing back to their barbarism and forgetting their brief schooling. At least fifty pupils could be had at this school, if revived, for which both parents and children are very anxious.

The school at Puyallup, until within the last few years, has been a miserable failure and fraud. Since good, competent, Christian teachers have been employed, the children have made much progress in all the elementary branches of education, and the school is now very prosperous, and parents manifest much anxiety to have their children educated and trained up to civilized habits, but the school accommodations there are limited to about forty pupils. Fully a hundred could be had all the time if there was room and means to maintain and teach them.

2. *Industry.*—Industry being an acquired habit, and not natural to "the children of nature," is never found to abound among Indians, especially with the males, who, as a general rule, are only industrious when driven by their natural wants. Indian females are, from necessity, much more industrious than the males, being to a great extent the drudges and slaves of the men, and having their children to care and mostly to provide for, they are necessarily driven to more industry than the men. All the reservations of this agency are surrounded by white settlements, and most of the able-bodied Indians hire out to farmers, to logging-camps, and saw-mills a portion of each year to

procure means to purchase necessities. But very few of them persevere in acquiring means beyond present necessities and the wants of a few days.

3. *Adoption of the costumes and habits of civilized life.*—All the Indians of this agency have “adopted the costumes” but not the “habits of civilized life.” Civilization itself consists of culture and *habits* acquired between infancy and mature age. White children receive this culture and acquire these habits, as a general rule, from their parents. Indian children receive no culture, and naturally absorb the habits of their savage parents, and consequently grow up barbarians. Our Government being the guardian of all her Indian wards, and having the right, power, and ability to separate all Indian children from their savage parents and have them cultured and trained up in the habits of civilization, is criminally responsible, in a moral point of view, for every Indian child she permits to grow up a barbarian, and is in truth responsible for the continuance of our Indians as barbarians.

4. *Disposition of individuals or families to occupy and cultivate separate tracts of land as permanent homes.*—This “disposition,” so absolutely necessary to civilization, was very much encouraged by me, while superintendent of Indian affairs of this Territory, by having every reservation in this Territory containing arable land surveyed into 40-acre lots, and offering every adult Indian or head of family a 40-acre homestead who would permanently settle upon and improve it. Some Indians on all the reservations have complied with this requirement. At least half those of the Puyallup reservation have settled upon separate 40-acre lots, and are building and making respectable improvements. I feel sure that if allotment titles were promptly sent from Washington for all Indians whose names, with descriptions of lots selected by each, were reported, that I could in a year or two have a large majority of the Indians of this agency residing upon separate lots of their own, and drawing their subsistence mostly from the soil by their own labor. A large number of names, with descriptions of lots selected by each, were forwarded to Washington over a year ago, to the Indian Bureau, but not one deed has yet come to this Territory for an Indian. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs promised me personally, when I last saw him, that these deeds should be promptly sent as fast as names and numbers were reported. Upon this assurance I promised the Indians “papers” from Washington for their lands. They are disappointed, and are beginning to suspicion that I have willfully deceived them; and I feel that the Indian Bureau has, on this point, deceived and disappointed me, and I am a little demoralized on this point.

5. *The cultivation of friendly relations with surrounding white neighbors.*—All the Indians of this agency have for the last twenty years been in the continuous “cultivation of friendly relations,” the most sincere and undoubted, “with surrounding white neighbors.”

6. *Generally, what, if any, progress has been made toward the discontinuance of tribal relations and preparation for the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship?*—In part answer to this interrogatory permit me to ask another. Where is there any law of the United States, enabling an Indian to become a fully enfranchised citizen of the United States? Any foreigner, however ignorant, can in a short time after his arrival in the United States become fully enfranchised, with all the rights and privileges of a native-born citizen, but an Indian, though a native “to the manor-born,” with all his ancestors from time immemorial, can in no legal way be enfranchised as a citizen, no difference how highly civilized or educated he may be. By an act of the last Congress, an Indian may dissolve his tribal relations so far as to avail himself of the benefit of the homestead law. But this is all the right he can obtain under that act. Secretary Delano decided that no Indian could become a fully-enfranchised citizen of the United States without an act of Congress enabling him to do so in the nature of a naturalization law. There being no such law, what encouragement has the poor Indian to struggle through the breakers between barbarism and civilization? Our Government has enacted laws compelling all tribes of Indians to be herded on reservations like flocks of cattle in fenced pastures, without any individual property in the soil, thus insuring the transmission of the barbarism of parents to their children as long as any of them exist. As Indian reservations serve as great sponges for the absorption of the gross and more poisonous vices of the surrounding whites, the present system is a splendid exterminating policy, at least on this coast, where nearly every Indian tribe is and has for the last twenty years been rapidly decreasing in numbers. Some few of the Indians of this agency have availed themselves of the benefit of the homestead law, and there is some disposition with many of them, as before stated, to own separate property and homes. But as a general rule, the barbarian habits of indolence and want of thrift among adult Indians are fixed, and, like grown-up trees, can be but little changed or improved by any system of culture. With Indian children it is wholly different. That gem of truth uttered by Solomon, “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it”—uttered by Pope in another form, “Just as the twig is bent the tree is inclined”—is as true of Indian children as of the children of the most highly-civilized whites, as every human being is the creature of surroundings from infancy to mature age. But as this writing is sufficient in length for a contribution to a dusty pigeon-hole, I will stop.

Letter of G. A. Henry, Indian agent.

QUINAIELT INDIAN AGENCY, WASH.,
December 20, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of November 6, asking for information as to the result of the present Indian policy, in respect to the Indians of this agency.

In reply to your questions I would state:

1. Since the inauguration of the present policy the advancement in education has not been as great as I could wish, owing to the great difficulties to be overcome in the superstitious ideas of the old Indians. Still, the school has been maintained most of the time with an average attendance of thirteen regular boarding scholars.

2. There has been a general improvement in habits of industry, and where they can be assured of gain or benefit they work readily.

3. When the present policy was first inaugurated there was not an Indian who had adopted the habits of civilized life. Now there are seven families, living in comfortable houses, and their living and housekeeping will compare favorably with the poor class of farmers of the country, and they are becoming much interested in the improved style of living.

4. There is little disposition of families and individuals to occupy and cultivate tracts of land, for the reason that most of the land is of a very poor quality, and is all covered with a heavy growth of timber, which makes it very difficult to clear. Still, several Indians have cleared small tracts, and raise hay and vegetables, and, considering the character of the country, have made some advancement in farming. The country is poorly adapted to agriculture, and the principal source of revenue will be their fish and furs.

5. The relations with the surrounding whites are very friendly, and they are often employed by them to work at clearing land and other occupations.

6. Some progress has been made toward the discontinuance of tribal relations. The Indians of this (Quinaielt) tribe elect their chief and principal men, and they are beginning to have correct ideas of the laws of the country, and to understand the duties of citizens.

In conclusion, I think I can confidently say that the *only* advancement toward civilization and Christianity has been since the inauguration of the "peace policy." This I know from personal observation; and although the general improvement may not perhaps meet the full expectations of some, I can say without fear of successful contradiction, it has been great, and I feel confident if the present policy and honest effort on the part of the Government is continued, a very few years will suffice to make many of the Indians of this coast good, self-supporting citizens.

REMOVAL OF THE SIOUX.

Letter of Rev. Samuel D. Hinman.

SANTEÉ, November 30, 1875.

MY DEAR SIR: Through some delay of mail your letter of the 17th is only just at hand. You will therefore pardon me if I answer in haste, though what I shall say is the result of much thought on the subject, and of considerable knowledge of the great Sioux reservation, and of the condition, prospects, and needs of the Indians occupying it. And first, I must confess that until this season I have, for various reasons, been opposed to the removal of the Indians occupying Northwestern Nebraska. I will try and give my reasons, both for lately opposing the removal of Spotted Tail and Red Cloud agencies and for now favoring it. In so doing it will be necessary for me to recite something of the recent history of these tribes. It will be remembered by you that the treaty of 1858 required the Indians to live within their reserve, though they were allowed to roam for purposes of hunting over certain other territories, specified by description. Their living within their reserve was made a condition of the treaty, the non-compliance with which debarred them from all right to participate in its benefits. The idea of those who acted for the Government in making the treaty was that the Indians should be removed so far from their former haunts that they would no longer find it convenient to make raids into Nebraska or Wyoming Territory, or to molest those then engaged in constructing the Union Pacific Railway. Spotted Tail was accordingly induced (by allowing a sufficient number of white men having Indian wives to be considered as Indians, as far as the drawing of rations is concerned) to remove to the Missouri River. The removal of his people was accomplished, and resulted in the location of his agency at Whetstone Creek, twenty-five mile

above Fort Randall, Dak., (Red Cloud was, as yet, roaming among the wild Sioux of the north near Powder River.) At Whetstone agency the whites and mixed bloods and a few Indians made commendable efforts to cultivate the soil. But their close proximity to the white settlement on the east side of the Missouri River favored the introduction of whisky, and the wild Indians were speedily demoralized and reduced to poverty. In less than eighteen months they were stripped of almost all their horses and equipments, and of all their personal property that could possibly be of any value to their white neighbors. A bottle of whisky worth less than one dollar readily brought thirty dollars in trade for Indian property or rations. And during their stay here Spotted Tail, in a drunken revel, killed his fellow chief Big Mouth without provocation or punishment.

The agency was at this time under military control, the agent being an officer in the Regular Army. Meantime the Department was making every effort to bring Red Cloud in, and to induce him to settle within the reservation and locate a place for an agency. He finally came in at Fort Laramie, Wyo., and the Department, anxious to bring his people into subjection to the Government, and too forgetful, I think, of his brutal record, allowed him to settle on the North Platte River in Nebraska, and only thirty-five miles distant from Fort Laramie. This was a violation of the treaty and a breach of faith with Spotted Tail, who had been told that all Indians, in order to draw rations and annuities, must live within the reserve. It caused him to be discontented with his location on the Missouri River and to long for his old haunts and hunting-grounds. And messengers were also sent to him by Red Cloud and men interested in trade, who so influenced his people that they demanded a removal westward toward their mountain home. To add to their discouragement, while on the Missouri, there were two years of drought in which all crops largely failed, and from which it appeared to their white friends that the country was unsuited to agricultural pursuits.

The Indians and the whites living with them represented the western country as well watered and every way better suited to farming or stock-raising than that along the Missouri River. I therefore reluctantly came to the conclusion that it was best for them to go back, but chiefly because I hoped that they might so get entirely away from whisky and the ills that follow it. In the permission given them to move it was clearly understood that they should not go beyond the western boundary of their reservation. They were accordingly removed to a stream called the Big White Clay. They afterwards removed themselves still farther west to a stream (Little White Clay) near Crow Butte, where, it being discovered that they were within the State of Nebraska, they were remanded to a place near their former location, Beaver Creek, and supposed to be within the Territory of Dakota, and so within the bounds of their reserve. When they were so remanded it was also told them that Red Cloud should soon be compelled to live within the reservation. Two years later, the Department again breaking faith with Spotted Tail, removed Red Cloud to almost the very location from which he (Spotted Tail) had so lately been ordered away. These various moves were so expensive to the Government, and the Indians were so easily angered, and controlled with so much difficulty and danger, there being then no troops nearer than Fort Laramie, and the feeding of them was so fast bringing them into a condition of dependence, and they were so far away from white settlers, that, until this present summer, it has seemed best to me that they be not molested or removed.

But recent events have so changed the situation of their affairs and their future prospects that I am constrained to believe their removal a necessity, and that it will be for their best good now and in the immediate future. The reasons are perhaps known to you, but I will hastily recount them. A survey of the northern boundary of Nebraska, made late in the summer of 1874, has discovered that both Red Cloud and Spotted Tail agencies are within that State. An occupancy of two years, and the visits of various governmental committees, both civil and military, has settled the fact that the country is worthless for agriculture and almost so for grazing, as far as Indian use is concerned, and that without any doubt at all, as long as the Indians occupy it as their home, they must be fully supported by Government or starve. Whether now, or ten, or twenty, or fifty years hence, I believe the situation will be the same. Again, the United States court in Nebraska has decided, (case of Gordon vs. General Ruggles, assistant adjutant-general Department of the Platte,) that as the treaty of 1868 was ratified and proclaimed after the admission of Nebraska as a State, the provision reserving neutral lands north of the North Platte is invalid and cannot hold, said land being already under the jurisdiction of a sovereign State, and that citizens of that State cannot be lawfully excluded from said lands, including the Red Cloud and Spotted Tail agencies; nor can they be forbidden to live or traffic there. Recently forty men *en route* to the Black Hills, with teams, goods, &c., located in Spotted Tail's camp to remain possibly until spring. The agent applied to the military for aid to remove them. The official reply is, they are as yet in Nebraska, and we cannot molest them. The undoubted discovery of gold in the Black Hills, and the exaggerated stories of their wealth, has filled the country with tramps and desperadoes, and the result is, among the Indians, lawlessness, debauchery, and disorder without end, and almost without

remedy. I had formerly (before the ascertained discovery of gold) hoped that the Indians themselves might occupy the Black Hills, and make there their farms and stock-ranches, in a country certainly most beautiful to look upon. But it is now impossible for our Government to restrain the whites and hold the country for the Indians, and if it were possible, my own observations, made both in the summer of 1874 and 1875, (that in 1875 being quite thorough and extended,) leads me to think the Black Hills country, or that part of it that is timbered and watered, and fertile, far too high and cold for either successful farming or stock-grazing, and besides it is subject to such frequent and fearful electrical storms during the short warm season, that the Indians are reasonably afraid to live there, and but seldom visit it. Until last summer it was thought that the lands on the White River or Niobrara, or their larger tributaries, or between the Black Hills and the Missouri River, might be found suitable for Indian occupation. A thorough exploration of all this country has now been made by Government commissions of which I was a member. Last summer, 1874, we examined the country along the White and Niobrara Rivers, and this summer, 1875, the country between the Hills and the Missouri, including the valleys of the Cheyenne and Bad Rivers, and of all the streams flowing eastward as far north as latitude 46°, the northern boundary of the Sioux reservation. There is absolutely no place where a large number of Indians could be held or worked except near the Missouri or on the Lower Niobrara. Perhaps a small band, of not more than 1,500, might be located at the forks of the White River, or at Eagle's Nest. This is the only exception. Thus the attitude of the people of Nebraska, and the absolute certainty of their degradation if they remain in their present location, render the removal of these Indians necessary, and the conditions of their treaty require it, and those most interested in them, both citizens and military officers, advise it. Now, where shall they go? They must go either north to the Yellowstone and its tributaries or to the Missouri River. If they go north, their present state of semi-hostility and well-fed impudence will be perpetuated indefinitely, and the expense of maintaining them largely increased. If they go to the Missouri River, they can better be held in subjection, being surrounded on all sides by settlements and military posts; they can better begin to work at farming and to learn herding, and can be protected in their property; they can better be compelled to give some attention to their changed circumstances, and to the necessity for them to find some new modes of gaining a livelihood for the future, and they can better be impressed with the importance of education for their children.

You will think of the former experiences of Spotted Tail and his people at Whetstone agency. Happily, those dangers are now done away by the President's order of last spring, extending their reserve some distance over the east side of the Missouri River, thus excluding traffickers from the whole Sioux country.

You will think of the difficulties of agriculture here as in their present location. It is generally admitted. But here many seasons bring a most abundant harvest; e. g., this summer all Indian farmers have been successful. The country will do very well for beginners, and will probably answer for the wild Sioux until they are so thoroughly subjected by work and are so sufficiently instructed in the cultivation of the soil, as to realize the need of a better.

Aside from all motives of public policy in benefiting the Indians and reducing them to quietude, the saving of the enormous expense of freighting overland is worthy of attention. But yet, beyond all this, I think we should clearly see and acknowledge the fact that the Dakota Nation can never be self-supporting here, and that as they become partly civilized and enlightened, they must be removed to the Indian Territory, south, (a magnificent country,) so providentially and worthily provided for them by the Congress of the American people. The Santees and Yanktons might go there first, and then year by year others would follow until all shall be removed. To this end I think some good lands should this winter be secured from the Cherokees or Creeks, (who have an abundance for sale,) for the Santees, and that at least by another year a colony should be gotten under way. The Poncas are already removing to the Omahas, being tired of their unequal fight with the Sioux. I think Spotted Tail should be removed next spring to the Ponca reserve, and Red Cloud to the Morean, a fine tributary of the Missouri, north of Cheyenne agency. The present Spotted Tail agency (not extensive) will be useful to the military, and Red Cloud agency can be used for the Arapahoes and Cheyennes until they are willing to remove southward.

I think, also, a commission should be sent in early spring to locate the agency provided by Congress last winter for the northern Sioux, and that it should be somewhere near the navigable waters of the Yellowstone River. If the Indians accept it, the Sioux question, so far as it threatens war, will be settled. If they reject it they must sooner or later be subdued by force, but so far away they will not influence the River Sioux.

I have thus given you my real opinions, and you can no doubt justify some of them from your own knowledge and information, and correct others of them. I also beg leave to refer you to the report of the Sioux-treaty commission, made last month to the honorable Secretary of the Interior. I would also suggest that the removal of the

Indians, as here advised, will take them out of the Department of the Platte, where there is always danger of war being provoked by unforeseen complications.

Respectfully asking a reply to this with your opinions on the matters herein contained,

I am, very truly yours,

SAM'L D. HINMAN.

Hon. F. H. SMITH,

Secretary Board of Indian Commissioners, Washington, D. C.

SPOTTED-TAIL AGENCY, NEBRASKA,

December 4, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to reply to your communication of November 17, 1875, asking my opinion as to "the practicability and wisdom of removing the Sioux Indians to the Missouri River." Also, whether, in my judgment, the removal of them, either as a whole or in installments, to the Indian Territory is really worthy of consideration.

In regard to the first question, my opinion is that as to the practicability it probably could be accomplished; as to the wisdom of such a move, I have my doubts, for the following reasons: I do not think that the Indians would be any better contented there than here, perhaps not so much so, for they would be nearer to the white population, would sooner adopt their vices and immoralities, and I believe that in a short time the result would be the dissatisfaction of both whites and Indians, which would compel the latter to move away.

The cost of moving would be considerable, and I doubt if sufficient farming lands could there be found to supply the requirement of so large a number of them, provided they were disposed to cultivate the land.

And even should they succeed as agriculturists, their lands would soon be wanted by the whites, and the Government would be compelled to give them a large compensation for their consent to move and for the improvements they had made on their farms.

As to the second question, it is my opinion that although there would probably be much opposition to it from the Indians, who naturally have a regard for this their native domain, still for their future welfare and for the interests of the Government the move to the Indian Territory would be the wisest and best.

There they would find abundance of room for them all to establish themselves in agricultural pursuits, they would have the example of those who are already there to stimulate and encourage them, and they would have a permanent residence and home from which they would not be likely to be driven by the white man. To compel them to move there at once might be a serious and costly undertaking; but by persistent and discreet advice they may be persuaded that it is for their future interest to consent to the move.

Should the Sioux give up their right to the Black Hills, which have always been a favorite possession of theirs, they would the sooner consent to be removed to the Indian Territory. I think they would be better satisfied to move as a whole than by installments, and they would probably require no more pressure to move south than to the Missouri River. Your letter I found here on my arrival.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. A. HOWARD,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. F. H. SMITH,

Secretary Board of Indian Commissioners, Washington, D. C.

SPOTTED-TAIL AGENCY, NEBRASKA,

December 8, 1875.

SIR: Since writing to you by last mail, I have held interviews with a few of the most intelligent and reliable white men here, who have resided with the Indians several years, and with a few Indians, in reference to a contemplated move to the Missouri River, or Indian Territory, and I am of the opinion that the move to the latter location could be accomplished with less difficulty than to the former.

I think a delegation could be induced to visit the country from here to examine the location south, and report on their return to their people.

I would be pleased to have this matter called to the attention of the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. A. HOWARD,
United States Indian Agent.

F. H. SMITH, Esq.,

Secretary Board of Indian Commissioners, Washington, D. C.

JOURNAL OF THE FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE BOARD OF INDIAN COMMISSIONERS.

WASHINGTON CITY, *January 19, 1876.*

The conference of the Board of Indian Commissioners with the representatives of the missionary boards engaged in Indian missionary work was held at the Calvary Baptist Church, at 10 a. m. Present all the members of the board; also, Rev. John W. Lowrie, D.D., secretary Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions; Dr. William Nicholson, Benjamin Tatham, Dr. James E. Rhoads, Friends' (orthodox) Executive Committee; Dilwyn Parrish, Samuel M. Janney, Samuel Townsend, Richard S. Bentley, Society of Friends; Rev. J. M. Reid, D.D., secretary Methodist Episcopal Missionary Society; Rev. J. F. Shoards, recording secretary American Baptist Home Missionary Society; Col. E. C. Boudinot, Indian Territory; Rev. J. M. Ferris, D.D., secretary board of Missions Reformed Church; Rev. Fielder Israel, American Unitarian Association; Col. G. W. Ingalls, Indian Territory.

The conference was opened by prayer by the Rev. Dr. Reid.

Mr. Fisk, chairman of the board, stated in a few words that the object of the conference was to have a full and free discussion touching the workings of the Indian policy. He said that he would be glad to hear suggestions and inquiries in regard to it, and that he was glad to be able to report a fair degree of progress in the missionary and educational departments of Indian work, though the year had been one of tumult and agitation in some respects. After expressing his pleasure at seeing so many representatives of religious societies, the chairman called for the report of the Friends who have charge of the northern superintendency and the agencies therein, viz: Great Nemaha, Omaha, Winnebago, Pawnee, Otoe, and Santee, Nebraska.

REPORT OF SAMUEL M. JANNEY.

During the past year, the welfare of the Indians in the Northern Superintendency, most of them living in the State of Nebraska, has claimed a large share of our attention, and the results have been generally encouraging. Each of the yearly meetings which we represent has a committee on Indian affairs, whose duty it is to correspond with the agents, ascertain the wants of the Indians under their care, and contribute to the extent of their ability in promoting their welfare. Visiting-committees have been sent to inspect and report the condition of the Indians at most of the agencies, and supplies of clothing for the school-children have been donated. There are matrons employed at several of the agencies to visit the Indian women in their dwellings and instruct them in household duties. By this means not only their physical comfort is promoted, but their moral and religious improvement advanced.

We have received a report from Superintendent Barclay White, by which we are informed, that, "During the past year the Indians in the Northern Superintendency have been peaceable, tractable, and comparatively industrious. No murder of a white person has been committed by them for a period of four years.

"The area of cultivated lands has been much enlarged, and in each tribe increased interest is taken in industrial pursuits tending to civilization and self-support, although in every tribe there still exists a party desirous of adhering to the former habits and customs of the race.

"Sobriety and temperance in drinking are the rule, and in some tribes an intemperate-drinking person cannot be found. I would particularly mention the Omahas and Pawnees as being clear of this vice.

"Disregard of the ties of marriage, horse-stealing, and petty theft are the crimes most prevalent. The ancient customs of the race still, in a great measure, regulate the continuance and dissolution of the marriage relation. Horse-stealing cannot be properly punished on the reservations. The military object to receiving the offenders for punishment, and Government prisons are not open to them. Agency laws are sufficient only for the punishment of small crimes.

"Timber-stealing from the Pawnee and Otoe reservations by white settlers is carried on to an extent of about ten thousand dollars per year. The State laws on the statute-books are a dead-letter for its protection. Eminent legal authority has decided that United States courts have no jurisdiction over crimes committed on Indian reservations in Nebraska."

We have received from Superintendent B. White statistics for the year ending Ninth-month 30, 1875, from which the following summary has been compiled:

SANTEE SIOUX.

The population of this tribe is 800, being an increase of ten during the year. There are on the reservation one industrial boarding-school, two mission-schools, and three day-schools, in all of which 147 pupils have been taught.

One hundred Indians can read Dakota; ten can read English. All wear citizens' dress. Four hundred are members of the Episcopal and Congregational Churches. One-third of the tribe are subsisted by labor in civilized pursuits, one-sixth by fishing and hunting, and one-half by Government rations. Four hundred and eighty-one acres were cultivated by Indians, and yielded 800 bushels wheat, 13,400 bushels corn, and 3,500 bushels potatoes. Two hundred and fifty tons of hay were cut by Indians. They owned 400 horses, 350 cattle and 400 hogs; and they occupied 180 houses. A committee who visited the Santee agency during the past year, reported a marked improvement in the personal appearance and housekeeping of most of the Indians on the reservation; this they attributed, in a great degree, to the untiring efforts of the village matron.

WINNEBAGOES.

In the year 1874, about 800 uncivilized Winnebagoes from Wisconsin were added to this tribe in Nebraska, augmenting its number to 2,322; but it is now reported as numbering only 1,667. As the births have exceeded the deaths, it is evident that a large proportion of the Wisconsin Indians have left the reservation; which was suggested as probable, in our report of last year. There are at this agency four schools; one of them an industrial boarding-school for both sexes, and three day schools; the whole number of pupils, 146 boys and 65 girls; total, 211.

There are two Sabbath-schools for the children and those of the adults who are willing to attend. One thousand wear citizens' dress and 145 can read English.

Three-fourths of the Winnebagoes are subsisted by labor in civilized pursuits, and one-fourth, including those from Wisconsin, receive Government rations. The land cultivated by Indians was 1,880 acres, which produced 5,800 bushels wheat, 20,000 bushels corn, 1,000 bushels oats, and 4,000 bushels potatoes. They cut 400 tons of hay; they owned 350 horses, 48 cattle, and 400 hogs; and they occupied 162 houses. The advancement of this tribe in industrial pursuits has been very remarkable, and within the last six years their moral condition has greatly improved.

OMAHAS.

The population of this tribe is 1,005, being a small increase during the year, and nearly the same as reported six years ago. They have three day-schools, attended by 75 male and 81 female pupils; total, 156. They have one Sabbath-school. One hundred and twenty can read English; and 45 wear citizens' dress. They are self-sustaining; receiving no aid from the Government except their stipulated annuity, which is about twenty dollars per capita. They tilled 1,500 acres of land, which produced 3,500 bushels wheat, 25,000 bushels corn, and 300 bushels potatoes. They owned 650 horses, 75 cattle, and 150 hogs; and they occupied 75 houses.

"The Omahas," writes Superintendent White, "have, under the judicious management of their agent, made a most rapid improvement during the year, and it is the more commendable, being individual effort without Government compensation. I recommend the system so successfully adopted by Agent Gillingham, viz, a distribution of suitable agricultural implements to those Indians who will go upon allotments of land and properly use them, the implements to be held by them only upon condition of their proper use."

PAWNEES.

In our report last year, we mentioned that this tribe, of their own accord, and with the approbation of the Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, had determined to remove to the Indian Territory. A large proportion of the tribe had then gone, leaving behind them, in Nebraska, the aged and infirm, the children at the industrial school, and a small number of laborers to cultivate the farms. The remnant of the tribe took their departure for the Indian Territory in the Eleventh month last, and in four weeks arrived at their destination in good condition.

The Pawnees are reported to number 2,200, being more than were reported last year and about two hundred less than their number six years ago. They had, during part of the year, two schools with an attendance of 80 boys and 45 girls; total, 125. One hundred and forty could read English; thirty-seven adults and all the school-children wore citizens' dress. On the reservation in Nebraska there were produced, chiefly by Indian labor, 5,500 bushels wheat, 3,600 bushels corn, and 1,550 bushels potatoes. On their new reservation, in the Indian Territory, 300 acres of land were broken and 125 acres seeded in wheat.

Our visiting committee, sent out to inspect the condition of the Pawnees, state in their report that the results of this year's farming have been very gratifying, especially in comparison with the desolation and destitution of the agency about this time last year, and the more so that Indian labor has brought this result, and that his muscles have been trained in the employment in which he is hereafter to live or suffer. They also visited the Pawnees in the Indian Territory, and report that the reservation chosen for them is, in every respect, eligible, having a mild climate, a rich soil, and a sufficiency of timber and water. It is situated in the forks of the Arkansas and Cimarron.

ron Rivers, east of the 97° W. longitude. There have been twenty new buildings erected on the reservation, and a steam saw-mill.

A bill has been prepared for the sale of the Pawnee reservation in Nebraska, for the purchase of the one they now occupy in the Indian Territory, and for the loan of a sufficient sum to pay for their improvements and subsistence, to be refunded from the proceeds of their lands. We consider it very important that this bill should be passed by Congress at an early day.

OTOES AND MISSOURIAS.

The population of this tribe is 457, showing an increase of four since last year and of seventeen within six years. During the year a building has been erected at the agency for an industrial boarding-school, which has been opened with an attendance of thirty-five scholars.

Forty-five members of this tribe can read English; two-thirds of the tribe are subsisted by labor in industrial pursuits, one-twelfth by fishing and hunting, and one-fourth by Government rations. They have tilled 685 acres of land, producing 500 bushels wheat, 10,000 bushels corn, 800 bushels potatoes, and 300 bushels turnips, and they have cut 500 tons hay.

A herd of cattle has been purchased, which now numbers 338 head, and the Indians have been encouraged to pursue grazing as a means of subsistence. They can thus supply themselves with meat without resorting to the buffalo-hunt, which has hitherto retarded their civilization.

GREAT NEMAH Agency.

At this agency there are two small tribes on adjoining reservations. The Iowas number 219, and the Sacs and Foxes of Missouri, 98; total, 317; being nearly the same as reported six years ago. The Iowas have an orphans' industrial home connected with a day-school, attended by 28 male and 14 female pupils; total, 42. Ninety can read English; nearly all wear citizens' dress, and are subsisted by labor in civilized pursuits, together with their stipulated annuities. They tilled 800 acres of land, producing 16,000 bushels corn and 1,000 bushels potatoes, and they cut 1,100 tons of hay. They own 326 horses, 174 cattle, and 138 hogs. They occupy 41 houses.

The Sacs and Foxes, who have heretofore been mostly indolent and intemperate, have, within the past year, manifested a decided disposition to improve their condition. They have contributed \$2,000 from their cash annuity for breaking prairie and the purchase of agricultural implements, and \$2,000 for education and other beneficial purposes; and they now ask to have a part of their reservation allotted to them in severalty. They have a school taught by an educated Sac woman, who is qualified for the service.

The foregoing statistics, together with the reports from the superintendent and agents, show that the Indians in the Northern Superintendency are advancing in civilization, and that, in most of the tribes, a large proportion of them have become self-sustaining by industrial pursuits.

At all the agencies under the care of Friends, Sabbath-schools for the Indian youth, and such of the adults as are willing to attend, have been established. In these schools lessons from the Scriptures are taught, and instruction given in regard to practical religion.

The contributions for the Indian service the past year, by members of our several yearly meetings, amounted to \$7,666.79.

B. RUSH ROBERTS,
Secretary.
SAML. M. JANNEY.
DILLWYN PARRISH.
RICHARD T. BENTLEY.
SAMUEL TOWNSEND.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *Firstmonth* 19, 1876.

B. RUSH ROBERTS, commissioner, said: In reference to our report just read, I might call attention to the fact that reports made in detail are not always most desirable, yet it is the only source whence we can draw a comparison in relation to what is being done. If we compare the reports of seven years ago, when this policy was first introduced, the result is very striking. Great progress is being made in civilization, and there has been no time when it has been so important to show this to the world as now when there is an effort being made to turn the care of the Indians over to the War Department, which, I think, would be utterly disastrous.

J. D. LANG, commissioner, said: Thirty-four years ago I visited the Winnebagoes. During my visit there were constant reports of murders among themselves. It was estimated that something like four to six murders were committed every week among these very Indians. I mention this to show that great improvement has been made in that tribe.

A. C. BARSTOW, commissioner. In what condition is this property in Nebraska who is left behind in charge?

Mr. ROBERTS. There is an agency farm. The whole property is under contract. The agent produces all that he can. His pay is taken out of the products of the farm, and the Indians have the benefit of the remainder.

General FISK. I will now call upon the Orthodox Friends for their report from the Central Superintendency and the agencies therein, viz: Pottawatomie and Kickapoo, in Kansas; Quapaw, Osage, Sac and Fox, Wichita, Kiowa and Comanche, and Cheyenne and Arapahoe, in Indian Territory.

Dr. NICHOLSON, in behalf of the Orthodox Friends, said: The associated executive committee of Friends, (Orthodox,) to whose care the Indians of the Central Superintendency are committed, have 13 boarding-schools and one day-school in operation, with an average of 597 pupils and a total enrollment of 745. The average attendance at our schools last year was 437. These schools are designed for industrial training as well as for intellectual, moral, and religious instruction. One of their most pleasing features is the readiness with which the children are becoming accustomed to the simpler industries of rural life. The boys are detailed for work on the farms connected with the schools, and the girls for the various branches of domestic industry. Owing to insufficiency of funds, most of the schools were closed during three months in summer. There is decided objection to closing Indian schools, as the conditions of life to which the children are subjected at their homes tend rapidly to undo the habits and training which it is the purpose of the schools to establish.

We think it quite safe to say that increasing success has marked our educational work at every agency during the past year. The increased experience of our agents and teachers has enabled them to make the schools decidedly more efficient. The aversion (and in some instances decided opposition) of the adult Indians to allowing their children to attend school is gradually giving way, and in most places if the building accommodations were more ample the number of pupils would be decidedly larger.

Our experience establishes us more and more in the opinion that the civilization of wild, roving Indians by the usual methods is attended with almost insuperable difficulties, and we believe that the true policy is to separate those who wish to settle down from those who cling to their old habits. The well-disposed Indians should be placed where soil and climate render self-support practicable; and their good dispositions should be fostered by such means as will strengthen their inclination to self-support. In this way they will be set free from the opposition, taunts, and threats of those of their own people who oppose civilization, and will become a nucleus to which increasing numbers of their tribes can be yearly added. All wild Indians who, through hostility, demand the exercise of the military force and are subdued, should be dismounted, disarmed, and permanently removed to favorable localities, far away from the buffalo region. In this way their hunting, roving habits will be overcome and in a few years they will turn their attention to other modes of support. We confidently believe that a perseverance in the policy outlined above would result in a successful solution of the problem of civilization even of the wildest tribes. At its last session Congress made an appropriation with the view of transplanting some captive Cheyenne, Kiowa, and Comanche Indians in the manner above indicated. The necessary arrangements were made for their reception in the northeast part of the Territory. We were exceedingly hopeful of the success of the experiment, but unfortunately, instead of the captives being removed as was expected, they were turned over to their respective agents and placed upon the same footing as those of their tribes who had been loyal to the Government. Notwithstanding this loss of a golden opportunity, we would impress with more earnestness than ever the importance of the plan alluded to.

In a careful survey of our work we feel that we have become much more thoroughly acquainted with many of its difficulties and discouragements, but we are assured also that our efforts, in endeavoring to discharge the trust committed to us, of caring for a part of this people, have been fruitful of much present good, which we trust will not under any future circumstances be wholly lost. Not a few of those engaged as workers are deeply imbued with the love of Christ, and have not only been enabled to withstand the many temptations by which they are surrounded, but also to be instruments in bringing some of the children and adults among whom they labor to the saving knowledge of the truths of the gospel. We have always felt that the lifting up of a barbarous people to the plane of Christian civilization is necessarily slow; that it must be the work of generations. Whatever we may have done in the past, or may be permitted to undertake in the future, we commend to the blessing of the Lord of the harvest, who sees the end from the beginning, and whose eye of pity is upon all His works in all places of His dominion.

We present the following statistical summary for the year ending Sixthmonth 30, 1875:

AGENCY FOR INDIANS IN KANSAS.

Agent, Mablon H. Newlin, Rossville, Kansas. This agency includes the Prairie band of Pottawatomies and the Kansas Kickapoos, as follows: Pottawatomies, reservation

11 miles square, on the 39th parallel, and nearly north of Topeka; 447 Indians; one boarding-school, average 31—12 boys and 19 girls; total enrollment, 38. School-farm, 45 acres in corn, 10 in oats, 2 in potatoes, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ in garden-vegetables. Stock on school-farm, 5 horses, 10 cattle, of which 7 are milch-cows and 6 spring calves, 26 hogs, 300 poultry; 3,000 pounds of pork killed last winter. Crops of last year greatly damaged by chinch-bug, dry weather, and grasshoppers. There are 65 children of suitable age for school in the tribe. The present buildings are full, and agent is preparing to enlarge them, so as to extend the advantages of the school to all the children. Salaries of employes who manage the school amount to \$1,660.

KICKAPOOS IN KANSAS.

Reservation 5 miles by 6, latitude $39\frac{1}{2}$, nearly north of Topeka; 270 Indians; 56 children suitable for school; 1 boarding-school, average 44—18 boys and 26 girls; total enrollment, 46. School-farm, 15 acres in corn, 11 in oats, 3 in turnips, pumpkins, &c., $2\frac{1}{2}$ in potatoes, 2 in gardens, $1\frac{1}{2}$ sorghum. Stock on school-farm, 1 mule, 12 cattle, of which 5 are milch-cows and 5 spring calves; 6 hogs, no poultry; 1,200 pounds of pork killed last winter. Dry weather and grasshoppers cut off the crops of last year. Salaries of employes who manage the school, \$2,020.

QUAPAW AGENCY.

Agent, Hiram W. Jones, Seneca, Missouri. Agency includes Quapaws, Ottawas, Confederated Peorias and Mianies, Wyandottes, Shawnees, Senecas, and the remnant of Captain Jack's band of Modocs from Oregon; all located in the northeast corner of the Indian Territory, and numbering 1,544. There are about 300 children suitable for school. There are 3 boarding-schools and 1 day-school, with an average attendance of 202 pupils, and total enrollment of 294, as follows: Boarding-school for Quapaws and Modocs, average attendance 70—32 boys, 38 girls; total, 90. School-farm, 160 acres in a good state of cultivation, with excellent crops of grain and vegetables; orchard of 10 acres; stock belonging to school, 7 cattle, 30 hogs.

The Seneca, Shawnee, and Wyandotte boarding-school has an average of 73; total, 123; equal number nearly of each sex; school-farm, 90 acres, 57 in corn, 28 in oats, 5 in vegetables, 8,000 sweet-potato plants. Crops looking well; 7 cattle; hogs will be supplied when the corn matures.

Ottawa boarding-school; average 29, sexes nearly equal; total, 45. Farm 40 acres; 22 in corn, 6 in wheat, 5 in oats, 7 in vegetables, 10,000 sweet-potato plants. All the crops look well. 12 cattle, 5 hogs, and a few fowls.

The Peoria day-school has been re-organized, and arrangements made for boarding a few children in the neighborhood. Average 30—18 boys, 12 girls; total, 36. A fresh interest seems to manifest itself among the Peorias.

The Indians of the agency are behaving commendably, except an occasional drunken brawl. Intemperance is decreasing among them. Earnest efforts have been put forth in the temperance cause, and much good has been done. The Modocs have been total abstainers from alcoholic drinks since they have been on this reservation. Their children are in school, making good progress; they have land assigned to them by the Government, and are already fencing and cultivating it.

Employés at Quapaw school at the rate of \$2,940 per annum.

Employés at Seneca, Shawnee, and Wyandotte, at the rate of \$2,340 per annum.

Employés at Ottawa at the rate of \$1,290 per annum.

SAC AND FOX AGENCY.

Agent, John H. Pickering, Okmulgee, Creek Nation, Indian Territory. 1,557 Indians, as follows: 550 Sacs and Foxes, 693 Absentee Shawnees, and 314 Mexican Kickapoos. It is understood that several hundred more Kickapoos are on their way from Mexico to this agency, and it is quite probable that the Kickapoos in Kansas will conclude to remove to the same location in the course of a year. One boarding-school for the Sac and Fox tribe, supported by their own funds under treaty stipulations; average 38—23 boys and 15 girls; total enrollment, 39. School-farm, 79 acres in cultivation, viz: 22 in corn, 32 in wheat, 8 in oats, 3 in millet, and 14 in potatoes, pumpkins, and garden-vegetables; about 600 bushels of wheat and 300 of oats. Stock on school-farm, 58 cattle, of which 8 are milch-cows, and 7 spring calves, 2 horses, 2 mules, 43 hogs, 25 chickens; 2,000 pounds of pork killed last winter. Salaries of employes who manage the school, \$2,160.

Day-school for Absentee Shawnees; average 9—8 boys and 1 girl. This school has been re-organized, arrangements made for boarding 9 children, and the promise of a larger number of day-scholars. Four of the most influential Indians have been appointed school-directors, and we hope now to fill the school. These Indians are progressing well in farming pursuits.

GREAT AND LITTLE OSAGES AND KAWS.

Agent Isaac T. Gibson, Coffeyville, Kans.; 3,395 Indians, viz: Osages, 2,872; Kaws, 523. Boarding-school for Osages, average number, 65; 50 boys, 15 girls; total, 78.

School farm, 107 acres; crops of wheat, corn, oats, potatoes, and vegetables very good. Salaries of school employes, \$4,390.

Boarding-school for Kaws, average, 44; 35 boys, 9 girls; total, 54. School-farm, 45 acres. Salaries of school employes, \$3,620. A large part of the Indians of this agency have made rapid progress in settling down and cultivating the soil, building houses, &c. The crop of grain raised by them would suffice to feed the whole tribe and allow of some surplus for sale. Many distressing difficulties, however, oppose the efforts of the agent and his collaborators.

CHEYENNES AND ARAPAHOS.

Agent John D. Miles, Darlington, Ind. Ter. There are 3,748 Indians, viz: 1,970 Cheyennes; 1,658 Arapahoes; 120 Apaches; 230 Cheyennes are still absent from agency.

Boarding-school for Arapahoes, averages 54; 34 boys, 20 girls; total, 54. The boys cultivate 50 acres in corn and vegetables; crop excellent. They also attend to the cows belonging to the school and cut all the wood. All the Arapahoes remained at peace in the late disturbances, while all the Cheyennes except 389 went on the war-path. Whirlwind was one of the leading peace men among the Cheyennes, and since the war is over has been made head chief of the tribe. The Indians of this agency are subsisted by the Government, and have made very little progress in agriculture. Salaries of school employes, \$3,300.

WICHITAS AND AFFILIATED BANDS.

Agent Jonathan Richards, Anadarka, Ind. Ter., via Wichita, Kans.; 1,900 Indians; one boarding-school; average number of pupils, 50, of whom 33 are boys and 17 girls; total enrollment, 65; no school-farm. Salaries of school employes, \$4,650. The Indians of this agency are entirely peaceable, and are to a considerable extent engaged in agriculture. They are, however, subsisted by the Government, and are much exposed to depredations from the wild tribes, and these two causes combine to diminish their energies and to keep them dependent, yet the improvement of the last year has been marked.

KIOWAS, COMANCHES, AND APACHES.

Agent James M. Haworth; 2,918 Indians, viz: 1,070 Kiowas; 1,505 Comanches, and 343 Apaches. One boarding-school in operation from Secondmonth 15 to Sixthmonth 30, 1875, with an average of 60 pupils; 32 of whom are boys, and 28 girls; total enrollment, 60; of these 28 are Kiowas, 16 Comanches, and 16 Apaches. None of these tribes ever before would allow their children to go to school, as they wanted them to roam with them over the plains. But having been confined lately by the military to the vicinity of the agency, they willingly gave up their children to the school. The progress of the children in the exercises of the school-room is really wonderful. A large majority of the Comanches, and about one-half of the Kiowas, were on the war-path, but all are quiet at the agency now. They are fed and clothed by the Government. They have cultivated considerable crops of corn this summer. This is their first attempt at agriculture, and is due mainly to their being confined near the agency. The salaries of school employes at the rate of \$3,460 per annum. About 300 Kiowas and 900 Comanches were classed with the hostiles. All the Apaches were peaceable.

The progress has been greater than in any previous year. The Indians have been in the neighborhood of their agencies except when off on the hunt, escorted by soldiers or employes. Consequently the attendance of children at school has been better. Two or three times the number of children could have been obtained had there been more room for them. The Kiowas and Comanches had children in school for the first time, and I never saw greater improvement in children in the same length of time. The Cheyennes have for the first time allowed their children to attend the same schools with the Arapahoes.

General FISK. Another fact for the Centennial—fraternity among the Indians.

Mr. TATHAM. Have they a fine school-building?

Dr. NICHOLSON. No; the school-building was never a fine one. They have recently had a new building, but it is not large. It is simply for a school-room. The agent is preparing to add to the accommodations for boarding, so that all the children of the tribes can be accommodated.

General FISK. You think it would have been a good thing to have moved those hostile Indians?

Dr. NICHOLSON. Not a shadow of doubt of it.

General FISK. What stopped it?

Dr. NICHOLSON. I do not know; that is for you to find out.

Mr. KINGSLEY, commissioner. Where the Indians are housed, do you take the children from their houses to boarding-schools?

Dr. NICHOLSON. The most successful school policy is to put them into industrial boarding-schools. Otherwise the difficulty is that there is no force behind the children to force them to regular attendance, and they go or not, as they choose. When in a

boarding-school they are compelled to attend. They go home occasionally, and they receive visits from their parents at the school, and the interest of the adults in schools is greatly increased by these visits.

Mr. KINGSLEY. Do the parents have any appreciation of the good of the schools, or do they send the children to get them out of the way?

Dr. NICHOLSON. Some of them have. Chiefs who once opposed the setting up of schools now come and make addresses to the children, encouraging them to be obedient and to learn all they can, setting before them the advantages they are likely to get from learning. It is, with the Indians, first opposition, then concurrence, and then co-operation.

Mr. TATHAM. Is there not some Indian in charge of the schools?

Dr. NICHOLSON. In one of the schools, composed of three tribes and speaking three tongues, is a young man, brother of one of the Texas raiders, who voluntarily took up his abode there during school-hours. His self-imposed business was to aid the teacher in controlling the school. He has been of great service to the teachers, and has had very good influence over the boys. He has no education and has had no salary until lately, I think, the teacher has paid him something.

Mr. KINGSLEY. Do you conduct these schools to any particular standard or are they only elementary?

Dr. NICHOLSON. There is no fixed limit. There are few that are advanced.

Mr. TATHAM. These were recently wild Indians?

Dr. NICHOLSON. Yes; and the Kiowas, Comanches, and Apaches are yet. The Kiowas never sent a child before and the Pottawattomies never had a school before; not this branch.

General FISK. The next report is from the Methodist Episcopal society that nominates the agents for Hoopa Valley, Round Valley, and Tule River, in California; Yakama and Quinalt, in Washington Territory; Alsea, Siletz, and Klamath, in Oregon; Blackfeet, Crow, and Fort Peck, in Montana; Fort Hall and Lemhi, Idaho; and Michigan, in Michigan; Rev. Dr. Reed, secretary.

Rev. Dr. REED said: We have not increased our appropriation for the Indian work during the year. We are spending less than \$5,000 on that work. A good deal of that appropriation has been spent upon fields where we do not nominate the agents, and in some instances we are not spending anything on the agencies in our care. We divide our agencies into two classes: The Rocky Mountains would be the line of division. The agencies on the other side of the Rocky Mountains afford us very little trouble and are very encouraging in the main. Those on this side are very discouraging. Our Oregon and California conferences take a deep interest in our Indian work, and each of them has a committee to supervise those agencies. They visit and carefully look after them. Religious interest and civilization are advancing there. If Mr. Burchard were here he would represent them very faithfully. It is three years since he was appointed agent, perhaps more. He entered upon his work like a Christian and humanitarian. His tribe numbers about 1,200. After a year's labor among these "blanket" Indians, he considered some 900 of them as hopeful converts. They at once began to clothe themselves, to send their children to school, and to build homes. We have no difficulties that we should not expect. Our agent has been the victim of assaults, but our church has taken such a deep interest that it at once looked into the affair and protested against the charges. They have been investigated, and the agent has come out of the hottest fire without so much as the smell of fire on his garments. This side of the mountains, as soon as we appoint an agent who interferes with the prospects of gain, he is at once assailed. That is our most serious difficulty. We have no agencies there that we regard as prosperous except, perhaps, Fort Hall, in Idaho. We have appointed in succession the best men we could select, elderly men, whose integrity and purity of life have been pre-eminent, and immediately they have been assailed. Fort Peck is under removal. Blackfeet is in process of removal, and the whole thing is in a state of mobility. I regard the removal of Fort Peck as a most propitious change if the place is what I suppose it to be. There was no land at Fort Peck for the Indians to cultivate, but I understand the place where they go is on the river where the Indians can make permanent settlements, so that we rejoice at the removal.

The Blackfeet agency has some rich valley land, but the country is rather fitted for grazing than for agricultural purposes. They can graze to the tops of the mountains even in winter, as the snow blows off. But it is not possible to keep the good land; the settlers are constantly encroaching, changing the boundaries, and advancing upon the Indians. This change of boundary-line is a great injustice to the Indians. It is a difficulty occurring all through Montana, and I do not know where it is to cease. We are doing very little there, and our work is discouraging. We can only appoint such agents as the Methodist Church has confidence in, and hold our hands against what we believe to be corruption. We have a very good school at Blackfeet, but at Fort Peck we have nothing, not even religious services. The Indians regard sending their children to school as a great favor to us, and when any difficulty occurs withdraw them to punish us.

At Fort Belknap, we have an agent who is cultivating some land and raising some potatoes. He has succeeded well, though he has had to contend with the curiosity of the Indians, who had never seen them before. They had to go over into the lot and pull up hill after hill, to examine them. The wife of this agent is an accomplished lady, who has taken a few Indian children into her family, and is teaching them to read, write, and sew.

Fort Hall is a fine agency, with a good agent's home. The agent cultivates a farm, and allows any Indian who desires a strip of land to cultivate. They have a school-house, which has been occupied most of the year. A native Indian, a member of our church, who had an eastern education, and who is really a polished man, has been at Fort Hall doing a good work as teacher and preacher. He has now gone to Fort Peck.

Mr. STICKNEY, commissioner. Do you attribute your discouragement to any defects in the present policy?

Mr. REED. No; I think this opposition we meet is with a hope of changing the policy, so that there may be a system of pillage that has had no parallel in Montana. We have had a constant fight with the basest immorality there already. No; I stand by our policy. The Methodist Church is ready to go on with the fight, and I believe we can win.

General FISK introduced Mr. Barstow, of Rhode Island, a new commissioner.

Mr. BARSTOW. I visited Round Valley (the agency of Mr. Burchard) last October. It lies 200 miles north of San Francisco in the Coast Range Mountains. It is about nine miles in diameter, surrounded by hills from two to three thousand feet high. The soil is rich and without means of irrigation; is moist enough for vegetables of all kinds. It is such a beautiful spot that the white men cast their eye on it, and two years ago they gobbled up 20,000 acres of the best of that land, having the lines of the reservation changed, and attaching that amount to the public domain. The moment that was done, the land was bought of the Government for \$1.25 an acre, though it was worth at the time \$25 an acre. The Indians had a little more land on the north of the valley given them instead, but they are not yet in possession of it. The squatters are grazing flocks upon it, and mean to keep it to themselves. Mr. Burchard has been missionary and agent at once here. His clerk, carpenter, and blacksmith are all Christian men. I attended a prayer-meeting there; the house was full; probably one hundred and fifty were present. To my surprise, a dozen Indians engaged in prayer or exhortation. Their language was broken, but it showed that what they said came from Christian hearts. They have two schools. The agent has a saw-mill—the only one there—and plenty of timber. He has also a grist-mill. They cut timber for sale. The whites think it rather hard that the Government should have all this. The agent is a self-sacrificing man, denying himself comforts that he may have more time for housing the Indians. The girls are taught to act as cooks and domestics. I was there several days and was exceedingly pleased. I could lie down in that valley to sleep, with my valuables about me, and feel safer than I would in any northern city. But the whites are covetous of these lands, and will be here again this winter trying to get the lines changed again. They would crowd the Indians into the Pacific Ocean if they could. I don't know what the board can do, but something should be done, for the same complaint is heard all over the Western States. The homes of the Indians should be held with some kind of sacredness, so that they can feel that what they have to-day will not be taken from them to-morrow.

Mr. KINGSLEY. Do these disturbances of title to lands come from legislation of Congress or from arbitrary use of power?

Mr. BARSTOW. In this case it was done by legislation of Congress, without their knowledge of it there.

Mr. KINGSLEY. The focal source of trouble to the Indians is in Washington, then?

The CHAIRMAN then called for the report of the Catholic missions that have the charge of Tulalip and Colville, in Washington Territory; Grande Ronde and Umatilla, in Oregon; Flathead, in Montana; Grand River and Devil's Lake, Dakota, Papago in Arizona. General Charles Ewing, Catholic commissioner. There being no representative of the Catholic Church present,

Mr. BARSTOW said: I was on the Grande Ronde reservation this year. It is in very good condition. I went because the 20 years' treaty was running out and the Indians were very anxious to know what the Great Father has done for them for the future. Seventy-five Indians came in on horseback to meet me. Everything appeared well there. There was progress in education.

The CHAIRMAN asked next for the report from the Baptist Home Missionary Society, to which are assigned Union agency, Indian Territory, and Pyramid Lake and Pi-Ute, in Nevada.

Rev. JOSEPH F. SHOARDS said: The Baptist Home Missionary Society that I represent to-day, feels a very deep interest in everything connected with this Indian work. They could not feel otherwise with Dr. Nathan Bishop at their head, who occupied a position on this board for several years. In addition to the Union and Pyramid Lake agencies in our charge we have been asked to nominate a special agent for those Cher-

okee Indians in the mountains of North Carolina. The reports which we have received during the year from these three different agencies have been encouraging, and also discouraging. The hardness of the times has materially affected our receipts, so that we have not been able to make the appropriations that we desired. But we have aimed to appoint good reliable men to labor among these Indians with a view to their educational as well as their religious welfare. Much good has been done. In the early part of the year we were asked to appoint a man to take charge of the educational interests in the Choctaw Nation, at Boggy Depot. After considerable care we were able to secure a man eminently fitted for the place, and who was appointed. He went to Boggy Depot and commenced his school, his efforts being specially directed toward those freedmen who had formerly been slaves to the Indians. From a small nucleus the school increased till the building was crowded. It, however, raised opposition in the Territory on the part of those opposed to freedmen's education, and Mr. Rogers recently reported that his school-house had been destroyed by fire, and the school broken up. The opposition was mostly from the whites. There were full-blood Indians gathered into the same school. Mr. Rogers has been able to rebuild the school, and hopes to increase the number of pupils. The other missions among the Creeks and Cherokees have been of a good deal of interest, though there has been some interference of a political nature. We have appointed about fifteen men at an appropriation of about six or seven thousand dollars, an increase of two or three thousand dollars over last year. The Baptists are in full sympathy with your board, and desire to co-operate with you in every way possible.

The CHAIRMAN then called for the report of the Presbyterian Missionary Society, to which are assigned the Abiquiu, Navajo, Mescalero Apache, Southern Apache, Cimarron and Pueblo, New Mexico; Moquis Pueblo, Arizona; Nez Percé, Idaho; and Uintah Valley, Utah.

Rev. Dr. LOWRIE, Secretary of the Missionary Board, said: I am happy to be here, though not able to bring a very rose-colored report. There has not been the progress we wish for. This is accounted for by the location of our agencies. I will say, parenthetically, that I have always thought the original apportionment of these agencies was not the best. Some agents were appointed over tribes in which there were missions not of the same body. For instance among the Dakotas the Congregationalists were largely at work; they were given to the Episcopal mission. In the Indian Territory, where the Presbyterians and Congregationalists had done a great deal in the line of education, the appointment of agents has gone into other hands. We make no objection, but we think it would have been wiser if the agencies could have been in the line of the missions. It has this bearing on our work: A considerable portion of this work is outside of our agencies. We have missionary teachers among the Creeks, Seminoles, Chippewas, and Omahas, whereas the agencies do not belong to us, and in some of these there are no other missionaries, except those supported by our board. Now, I am so far catholic that I welcome every effort for good, but it does constitute a source of embarrassment. If this policy is to go on as permanent, I think it would be worth while to bring the agencies and missionary work into line, placing agents and missionaries under the influence of the same denomination. I hope I have not spoken so as to hurt the feelings of any other denomination. We have spent about \$16,000 in support of missions. In regard to the agencies within our denomination, I refer the board to our annual report, which gives the facts and statistics. Our discouragements are owing partly to the location of these agencies. They are mostly in New Mexico, at a great distance from our Christian and in a great degree inaccessible. There are only five or six thousand white people in New Mexico; eighty thousand Mexicans and some twenty thousand Indians. There is no inducement whatever to take white settlers, except to a very limited degree, and the expense of reaching this part of the country is very great. We have found great difficulty in getting persons to go, and difficulty in getting transportation for teachers. Agents of course go at the expense of the Government. Then the influence of the Roman Catholic Church is against our opening schools. They claim that the work is best done by them; they do not, however, teach the people to read and write. The Pueblos have been two hundred years in that church and have never to any extent been taught. There is a small school among the Navajos and one among the Arapahoes. Many of these agencies are among Indians without reservations, and very little can be done for them in their present situation.

Mr. KINGSLEY. How numerous are these scattered Indians?

Dr. LOWRIE. Not very numerous; the Cimarrons consist of two bands. The Apaches are divided into quite a number of bands and number about 700. The Utes are about 500. The Abiquiu about 1,200 in all. We have the nomination of five of these agencies. I feel bound to state another discouragement in New Mexico. The efforts of those engaged in unlawful trade with the Indians, especially the whisky-dealers, seriously embarrass us. I think the charges brought against one of our agents, and which the military indorsed, (but which were investigated and proved to be unfounded,) had their origin in this detestable traffic of the Indians with the whisky-dealers. I might

go into details if it were necessary. A new man has been appointed in the place of one that we had, but I am not particularly informed as to the merits of the case. I think the agent was very zealous to prevent illicit connection between the soldiers and the Indian women. I fear he may have given offense by want of good judgment. Among the Nez Percés there has been a difficulty, owing to a claim for water-privileges. There is an elbow in the creek that catches all the drift-wood that comes down from the mountains. A claim was set up for the land about that elbow, and by some means a State officer was allowed to go on the reservation and levy on this land, causing the greatest excitement among the Indians. They were ready to take up arms. It was a mystery to me how any State officer could be allowed to go on a reservation. The gentleman said he had orders from headquarters. That matter ought to be settled. There are two boarding-schools there, and the schools are going on well. In the Uintah Valley there is a small school without much encouragement.

As to the general question of this Indian policy to my mind it is a pretty strong proof in favor of it that if you take these most discouraging agencies, it has been a great matter for the Indians to have as agents men who were upright, who could not be bribed, who would not swindle the Indians. Some of these agents do no more than exercise a general supervision, but if they were corrupt men you can see how they could afford to pay \$15,000 for an appointment, as was claimed to have been done in former years. Take Mr. Russell, for instance, a man of undoubted integrity, who goes down there at great personal inconvenience, and sympathizing with this movement, finds his discouragement in the fact that the Indians have no reservation. He cannot carry educational plans into effect, but he can protect their interests and the interests of the Government in the matter of supplies, and I venture to say the Government will not lose one dollar through want of integrity on the part of this agent. I think that is a very strong argument in favor of this policy. I think this conference has something to do in the way of confirming the public mind that this policy ought not to be disturbed; that the Indians should not be transferred to the War Department. If any change is made at all it should be to make a new department in sole charge of this work, with a secretary of Indian affairs, that it may be held up before the eye of the nation, that the public may see all that is going forward. I think the reputation of this country is likely to be affected by the way we deal with the Indians. They are but a few hundred thousand souls, but our reputation depends on the way we deal with these wards of the nation. Still this is but a low motive. We are bound to bring this people up to Christian civilization. Missionaries and the people can work together for them. I do not see why the Government cannot stand in relation to the Indians, in regard to the question of common-school education, precisely as the States do to the children of their citizens. That would secure confidence, means, and the right teachers. It would be but an equitable thing in consideration of the lands we have taken from them.

There is a certain amount of this done, but it is very little. Instead of it being a hap-hazard thing, let this be a part of the regular expenditure of the Indian Department, estimated for and appropriated by Congress, and it would result in a great blessing.

THE CHAIRMAN. I believe the suggestion in regard to education a very important one. We have next to hear from the board of missions of the Reformed Church, Dr. Ferris, secretary. The agencies assigned them are the Colorado River, Pima, and Maricopa, and San Carlos in Arizona.

DR. J. M. FERRIS said: I have come here mainly because there is a serious proposition to transfer the Indians to the care of the War Department, and because what good has been accomplished in Arizona is owing to the President's peace-policy. We have sent no one to Arizona as missionary, and the little we have done in the way of education is not worthy of mention. Nothing has been done but to look after agencies. When we took charge of these, about five years ago, the agents, so far as there were any, were military men; whether appointed by the Interior Department or the War Department I do not know. But I do know that they made no improvements at all, and there was no more unsafe place to live in than there. It was dangerous to live outside of the settlements, dangerous to travel without an escort. White men shot Indians at sight, and Indians shot white men in the same way. White men and Mexicans stole from Indians, and they revenged themselves. It used to be said that all along the highways of Arizona were the graves of murdered men. To-day, it is as safe to live and travel in that same part of Arizona as in New York or Washington. The white men who made the disturbances know now that there is a respectable body of men who will make them account for what they do, and who will use their influence to have such evils restrained, and so these white men behave themselves. The Indians also have begun to feel that there are men to care for them and to secure them in their rights so far as possible. We are constantly receiving requests from the Indians for the things they think they should have. The improvement in Arizona is the result of having honest agents in office.

Now, take this thing out of the hands where it is and give it into the hands of the

military, and the whole thing will be shut up in the War Department, and there will be no restraint that there is now. We have met with opposition in Arizona on the part of the military. Dr. Ferris then related, as an instance of opposition, the fact that 800 peaceful Mohaves, under the care of 60 or 70 soldiers and a drunken captain, were precipitated on the agency of Dr. Tonner without giving him warning; that a sutler's shop was opened right on the reservation and every opportunity was offered the Indians for breaking out into open drunken brawls and fights. This, Dr. Ferris thought, was intentional on the part of the military. On the other hand, continued Dr. Ferris, it is correct to say that the severe punishment, which has been inflicted on the Indians by the military, has been beneficial in teaching them that there is force above them, and that it is best for them to behave themselves. The Pimas are doing very well, and are beginning to cultivate the land. The Pimas and Maricopas, about 4,000 strong, are steadily running down. They have long been on good terms with the whites. They are becoming drunkards and impure. Their reservation does not give them subsistence, though they are among the best farmers in the Territory. The Gila River, that comes to their reservation, is tapped above them by the whites, and there is no water for irrigation; so they wander off to different parts of the Territory. One of the thoroughfares of Arizona runs along this reservation for a long distance, so that the Indians come in contact with the people who travel this route, and we have come to the conclusion that it is beyond our power to stop the deteriorations of these Indians.

The San Carlos Apaches are at the White Mountain reservation. The Rio Verde Apaches were also placed there. The agent, Mr. Clum, by the confidence that he has created in the hearts of these Indians, has induced them to give up their arms, so that they are almost entirely disarmed. He has established an Indian police, and is keeping order among these Apaches, who, a short time ago, were as wild as men can be.

The Apaches at Camp Apache have raised a great deal of fodder and sold it to the military post and been paid.

The suggestion in regard to schools, that has been made, would be an excellent thing in Arizona. The Indians are well disposed and are asking for schools and for houses, and a great many of them desire to wear clothing.

When we took the agencies the matter of supplies was entirely in the hands of the military, and the Indians were discontented, and properly so, with the supplies they received. They were not what they ought to have been, and the contractors on the Pacific coast and Arizona had it all their own way. The first agents we sent out receipted for the articles they received, not knowing they were at liberty to reject them. The hatchets turned their edges on the first blow; you could put your thumb through the blankets; the flour had been wet; the corn was mixed with gravel-stones. Those were the kinds of supplies that had been furnished to the Indians under military management. The supplies are now what they should be, and the Indians are content.

Mr. LANG. I met the superintendent of the school-buildings of the Apache quarters and got some history from him of the Arizona people. He told me that such was the disposition and condition of the Indians there that any one coming there that did not commence any hostility was as safe as anywhere else. This was a year ago.

The CHAIRMAN asked if there were any one present to represent the Episcopal Church, having in charge the agencies of White Earth, Minn.; Ponca, Crow Creek, White River, Cheyenne River, Yankton; Spotted Tail, and Red Cloud, Dakota; Shoshone in Wyoming.

General WHITTLESEY replied that he had just received a telegram from Rev. R. C. Rogers, secretary of that society, expressing his regret at being unable to attend the meeting to-day, and that no representative was present.

The CHAIRMAN. I am sorry, as they are doing a grand work among the Indians.

Mr. TATHAM wished to say, in behalf of Mr. Rogers, that he knew him to be encouraged in his work, and that so far from approving of a transfer of these matters to the hands of the War Department his feelings were quite the reverse. He is in favor of pushing the work forward as strongly as it is possible.

The CHAIRMAN asked if there were present any representative of the Unitarian association, having in charge the Los Pinos and White River agencies in Colorado; Rev. R. R. Shippen, secretary.

Rev. FIELDER ISRAEL was introduced as commissioner to report in his stead for the Unitarian association, Mr. Shippen regretting his inability to be personally present, but sending greetings and a desire to co-operate in all practical ways in leading the Indians to a Christian civilization. Mr. Israel then made the following report:

We have two agencies among the Indians in Colorado: one in charge of Rev. Henry F. Bond, at Los Pinos; the other, Rev. E. H. Danforth, White River. Each of these has with him his wife as teacher. Mr. Bond has also a son (married) in his employ. The Utes are a peaceable set, inclining to civilization, though more dull and slow than many other classes of Indians. The elevated-land region they occupy having frosts every month in the year, makes it impossible to do anything toward gardening or agriculture; they can scarcely raise oats even; still they are doing well in herding cattle and sheep. The Indian chiefs, Ouray and others, incline to dwell in houses like white

people, with fixed abode, and Mr. Bond is establishing new headquarters on lower lands in the valley, farther to the southwest, better for gardening though farther from civilization, and is establishing a boarding-school for children that gives good promise.

While we have felt that our opportunity is not a specially favorable one, we heartily desire to co-operate in the good work the Government has in hand, and we believe in the President's peace policy and shall do our best to sustain it. We have entire confidence in the integrity, the fidelity, and the Christian purpose of our two agents. We have never had any trouble with our agency nor agents. They are striving to teach the Indians that, denying ungodliness and fleshly lusts, they should live righteously, soberly, and godly in this world.

Mr. LANG. I spent a week with these Utes at that agency, and from all appearances and from all that I could hear or learn there was the greatest chastity maintained throughout Ouray's administration—more than in any other tribe in the Northwest.

Dr. REID said that in reference to the question of the military, he wished to state that so far as his board was concerned he had no fault to find with the men in command. General Gibbons, in Montana, near the reservation of the Methodist Church, was a very fine man; so also were other officers. They were, however, to a man, opposed to the President's policy. In Tule reservation the military force is in the middle of the reservation, however, and no matter how good the officers might be, you cannot have a body of soldiers so near the Indians without injury. His objection to the military is, as military.

Mr. TATHAM. I am glad if there is one locality where there is no complaint in regard to the military. In every other case the effect has been like a moral leprosy. Among civilized people it is bad enough; among uncivilized it is worse and worse. A distinguished military officer who has had a great deal of experience, when I told him of the difficulty we had down at Fort Sill with 800 colored cavalry, asked me if they were any worse than white men. I said I did not know. "Well," said he, "it doesn't cost Government anything to keep soldiers, for if they were not under control they would be robbing somebody." That was the opinion of a military man of the material soldiers are made of.

Dr. REID. I was not quite well understood it seems. I have an admiration for most of the officers I have met; I wished to free them from the blame that attaches to the soldiers. We have not felt the evil effects of the soldiery except in one reservation, because the other reservations are from fifteen to twenty miles from the military posts.

Mr. BARTOW. I think the President hit the nail on the head when he said "I have great respect for men who volunteer in time of war, but much less for those who enlist in time of peace."

Mr. JANNEY. I think one of the very important questions before Congress this winter is the question whether the Indians are to be transferred to the War Department. I believe that the President's policy has been remarkably successful, and I think it should be persevered in. It prospers; why not continue it?

The CHAIRMAN. Having had some experience in military affairs, I cannot but acknowledge that the influence of soldiers is evil and evil only. The President understands this perfectly; as he recently said, "Why, you know that the men who enlist in peace times are not all missionaries and Sunday-school teachers."

Mr. TATHAM introduced Mr. Rhoades, who said: I only want to refer to one point. There are complaints of want of promptitude, energy, and dispatch in transportation of supplies; and I want to enlist your interest for seeing that the contracts for transportation for the southwest agencies shall be made more carefully than they have been for the last year or two. The contracts that I have seen have bound the Government, but not the contractors. Goods that should have been delivered in October were delivered the following June. I believe this difficulty may and should be overcome. When I was at Fort Sill in 1870, in April, annuity goods were received which were due eighteen months before. When we were there last June goods were received which were intended for use the previous winter. If any gentleman had ordered goods for his family for winter-use he would not like it if they were not delivered till summer. If it can be done for families it can be done for Government, and it is just as easy for the civil as for the military department to do it well. What we want is energy and efficiency.

Mr. TATHAM. I want to reinforce that in regard to purchasing as well.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that Mr. Hayt, chairman of the purchasing committee, being present, he should give them the results of his efforts in that direction.

Mr. HAYT, commissioner, said: Whatever may have been our errors in the past, we have nothing of that kind to complain of now. The supplies of this year were well purchased at the lowest prices; inspected by the most respectable merchants very carefully, shipped at once, and a special agent was sent to inspect the goods at Chicago, and at Spotted Tail and Red Cloud agencies. This agent took invoices of all the goods with him. Some of the car-loads of coffee were addressed, "Subject to the order of D. J. McCann," who was to take the goods from Cheyenne to the agencies. This address led to the suspicion that the coffee might, at Chicago, be replaced by coffee of inferior

quality. Hence the precaution was used of sending it in sealed cars. They were checked over at Cheyenne, and examined again. The number corresponded precisely with the invoices and bills of lading; and the same coffee that was purchased in New York was distributed to the Indians. Samples were sent back through the mails by our own agent. We could not go over the whole ground, but we took these agencies because they were large, and because there the cry of fraud had been raised. We believe that the very grossest frauds have been practiced, but so far as the purchase and delivery of goods nothing could be more perfect. There is one contract we cannot so well supervise, the supply of beef. One contract is made for 31,500,000 pounds. We have sent our agent on to weigh the cattle, however. The committee have labored industriously, and we are fully satisfied with the result. Mr. Livermore, of New York, sampled the flour. We selected xx grade. It was inspected in the West by Captain Eskridge, and from him and from our agent we have received back samples, showing that the identical flour was distributed to the Indians, and they are perfectly well satisfied.

Mr. RHOADES. These remarks delight me very much, as they prove what I have said all along. I have no doubt the transportation can be improved as much to Fort Sill as to Red Cloud. The difficulties in regard to beef are almost insuperable, yet the improvements since 1870 are very great. Now the cattle are all weighed and branded; formerly they were distributed by guess.

The CHAIRMAN. I have never known business better transacted than this year. No complaints have been made except by those from whom we did not buy things at high prices.

Mr. STICKNEY said that the members of the Committees on Indian Affairs in Congress had expressed a desire for more light on the subject, and he did not know any better place where they could get it than by attending this conference; he therefore moved that this meeting adjourn till 7.30 p. m., and that the Committees on Indian Affairs of the two houses of Congress be invited to be present.

The motion was adopted, and at 2 p. m. the conference adjourned.

EVENING SESSION.

The conference was held in the rooms of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Interior Department, at 7.30 o'clock. Present the members of the board, the secretaries of religious societies, and members of the Senate and House Committees on Indian Affairs, with the chairman of each of those committees. General Fisk in the chair.

The chairman said that he was glad the Congressional Committees had accepted the invitation to attend this session; that the conference was ready to advise and be advised, and he hoped for a free interchange of views on the important subjects connected with the management of the Indians.

Mr. Allison, chairman of the Senate Committee, said in behalf of his committee that they had come to hear anything the board had to say to them by way of advice or otherwise, and that they would be glad to receive suggestions.

Mr. Scales, chairman of the House Committee, concurred in what Senator Allison had said.

The chairman called upon Dr. Reid, of the Methodist mission, to repeat briefly his remarks of the morning for the benefit of those who were not then present.

Dr. Reid gave an epitome of his report, dwelling more at length on the evils of having the military posts too near the reservation, characterizing it as one of the greatest evils that could befall the Indians. He adverted also to the injustice of changing the boundary-lines of Indian reservations, saying that the military and the agents of his church were in full sympathy with the Indians in that matter. It is almost always done for the sake of seizing the land or for indulging in illicit trade. He thought the importance of education could not be overrated. The Methodist Church had done a great deal in that direction, but the most valuable missions falling into the hands of the Church South in 1848, they had very little to show for it. The Church did not like to put out any new efforts till it knew what the future policy is to be. Dr. Reid reiterated most emphatically his confidence in the wisdom and humanity of the present policy.

Mr. ALLISON. How are your agents nominated; how do you know that they are fit men?

Dr. REID. We fix our eyes on a man we know to be fitted for the work and ask him to take it; or such an one applies to us; or some one applies whom we do not know. But he obtains the name of the bishop stating that he is a member of our church. We then correspond with the pastor of the church in the town where he lives, or with other persons whom we know, for we know persons in every part of the country. When our papers are ready, application and recommendations, we submit them to our committee on domestic missions. This committee consists of six or eight persons. They consider the case, recommend it to the board, and the board makes the nomination, which is sent to the Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. STICKNEY suggested that Mr. Barstow should state the difficulties arising from the change of reservations.

Mr. BARSTOW said: It has been my duty as a commissioner to twice visit the Pacific slope. One visit grew out of the embarrassment of the Department in consequence of a change in reservations occasioned by a contest with the Pacific Railroad near Wadsworth, Nev., where it goes dashing along Turkey River and through the Pyramid Lake reservation, until ten miles of that reservation have been surrendered by the Indians. The railroad claims a right to alternate sections of all that reservation, and the Indians will be driven out as soon as it is surveyed. The railroad company offered to take \$5 an acre for the 12,000 or 15,000 acres, only a small part of which would have been good for anything; or, to exchange its section for section. My recommendation to the Department was to give the lands. The Indians were very much unsettled by this trouble, and do not feel like making homes. Another case of trouble from a similar source was at Round Valley.

Mr. Barstow then related in full the details of the change of reservation boundaries as he had given it in the early part of the day.

Mr. ALLISON. This question of reservations is a delicate problem, Mr. Barstow; we Senators know that.

Mr. BARSTOW. We feel it sorely because it interferes with the work of the missionary societies. I think the gentlemen of the committee will be besieged again this winter, but I hope no changes will be made without consultations with the board at least.

The CHAIRMAN called upon Dr. Nicholson for his views, saying that as he had been confirmed by the Senate to-day as superintendent of Indian affairs, he, of course, must have decided views.

Dr. NICHOLSON repeated his morning remarks as to the treatment of wild Indians by separating them from the well-disposed and peaceable. He thought all arms and horses should be taken from them. Indians on horseback cannot be civilized. While they rove after the buffalo they are apt to raid, and it is almost impossible to prevent them except by military power. Take them off from their horses and plant them; put their children in school, and in a few years they will be as quiet as the Creeks to-day. I have been impressed, said Dr. Nicholson, with the recommendation of Senator Allison's commission, in regard to establishing schools at a distance from the tribes, and I think that would be a capital idea. Put them where the climate and soil are favorable, where they can live after their schooling is over; let them intermarry, and they will lead lives of self-support. The work looks slow at first, but ultimately it will be very rapid, and in a few years the use of the military can be dispensed with.

Mr. OGLESBY, of the Senate committee. What is their disposition after becoming partly civilized, after they have gone on to a reservation and made some advancement; what is their feeling about going back to their tribes?

Dr. NICHOLSON. If children are educated and then leave the school in immediate connection with their tribe, there is a strong tendency to go back to the old habits. The people of the tribe laugh at them for their short hair, their civilian's clothes, call them "squaw," &c. The result is the boy lets his hair grow, gets his bow and arrow, jumps on his horse, and is again an Indian.

Mr. ALLISON. Do you see that there is any growing tendency to break up the tribal relation?

Dr. NICHOLSON. The nearer they get to civilization the more individualized they become. All that holds them together as tribes is the funds they have in Government hands. Education tends to separate them man from man.

Mr. OGLESBY. What is your report about that, Dr. Reid?

Dr. REID. I have not much experience of that kind. The Cattaragas and Oneidas cling to their tribal relations. There is even a heathen part of the tribe that keeps up its heathen usages. I should be afraid that our general experience had been a little different from those in the west.

The CHAIRMAN next called upon Dr. Lowrie.

Dr. LOWRIE said: If you will allow me I will revert to a subject that has been spoken of. Our experience among the Sioux causes us to stand very much in doubt about the plan of separating the children from their homes. They think a better way can be devised, and my judgment agrees with theirs.

I would like to refer to our method of appointing agents. We ask our friends throughout the land to help us select the proper men. We take no one that is not a man of integrity through and through and a man of capability. As the result of this appeal for help we have a great many applications. I have in my pigeon-hole to-day at least a score of them, fortified by the highest testimonials. Our board has an Indian subcommittee composed of some of the best men in New York. They make the best selections they can from the testimonials. The result has been that there has been but one instance of complaint on the part of the Department; and I think the agent who was removed feels that it was in consequence of military objection.

There are two of the agencies within our nomination in which the Indians have no reservation. One is the Cimarron in New Mexico; the other is the Abiquiu, also in

New Mexico. The agent of the latter is without society, with a very wild population about him. There is a treaty provision requiring the removal of the Indians, but it is not carried into effect. Now, these agents, if they were not the men we believe them to be, might make a great deal of money. There is nobody to prevent it. We have done little in the way of education, but it is a good deal to have men of integrity in those posts.

From the location of our agencies we have had difficulty in sending teachers, there being no Government appropriation for transporting them. I had a conversation with the chief of the Seminoles to-day, and they have been trying day-schools for years with encouragement. I have no doubt that boarding-schools, coupled with manual labor, for both boys and girls, are invaluable, but not exclusively so. Day-schools are of great use in many cases.

Dr. Lowrie proceeded to unfold his views in regard to the propriety and expediency of Government assuming the responsibility and expense of education among the Indians.

A short discussion followed as to the nominating and confirming of agents, Senator Allison complaining that no testimonials accompanied the nomination, and they were often obliged to delay confirmations a long time before Senators could be satisfied that the applicant was worthy of confirmation. Dr. Lowrie explained that, so far as the Presbyterian board was concerned, they had at first offered to send recommendations with the nomination, but their offer was declined. He stated that all such recommendations and testimonials were, however, kept on file, and could be furnished to the committee at any time desired. Mr. Lang also stated that his board (the Friends) was perfectly frank, and there was no trouble in seeing any of these recommendations.

Mr. LOWRIE said: We decided early never to send clergymen, and have done it only once. We wish to have good business men; and we never make a nomination till we are asked to do so by the Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. KINGSLEY. We have never sent a name to the Department that was simply recommended by clergymen. The recommendation of an applicant's pastor is always backed up by that of business men. We demand integrity and capacity.

Mr. LANG said that he had been over 40 years acquainted with Indian affairs and he was convinced that the different religious bodies had entered into this work very helpfully.

Dr. REID. I hope the Senators will not imbibe the idea that because we send clergymen to them as nominees that therefore they are not business men. We prefer clergymen if they are the right kind. We can take a man right out of our work, and he does not lose anything because, in our system, he is sent right into a parish again on his return. The Presbyterian system being so different, I think Dr. Lowrie's board acts wisely.

Dr. FERRIS spoke next at length on the subject of transferring the Indians to the War Department, repeating the views and arguments he advanced in the morning session, expressing it as his view that the present policy was saving Arizona, and speaking in high terms of the good influence the visit of the peace commissioners (General Howard and others) had upon the Indians there. In reference to the agents that the Reformed Church had sent to Arizona, one was Methodist, one Congregationalist, three Presbyterian, and two German Reformed. They had endeavored to choose frontiersmen who had had experience with the Indians. He suggested that such a system of schools as Dr. Lowrie suggested would be just the thing for Arizona.

Mr. OGLESBY. How do the agents live on \$1,500 a year?

Dr. FERRIS. They have been allowed to draw certain articles from the Army stores on the same terms as the Army officers.

Mr. OGLESBY. Do they buy vegetables from the Indians?

Dr. FERRIS. Yes, or they raise them. They cultivate the land by irrigation. We have helped one or two agents with a few hundred dollars to get them through. The first year is the hardest. After the garden is once made they manage to pull through, but it is very close work.

Mr. ALLISON. You still consider subsistence from the Government for the Indians necessary?

Dr. FERRIS. I do at present.

The CHAIRMAN then invited Mr. Hayt to repeat his statements of the morning in reference to the purchase, inspection, and transportation of supplies to the Indians, which Mr. Hayt did very fully, going even more into detail in the matter of inspection, and giving the names of all the experts employed.

Mr. OGLESBY. Where did you buy your pork, beef, and flour?

Mr. HAYT. In the West; for the Pacific coast goods are bought in San Francisco and Portland, Oreg. All goods were lower this year than for years. Transportation was also low.

Mr. KINGSLEY said that one of the principal points was to have the goods faithfully delivered. This had been so done where their special agent had accompanied them, but

as Government only allows them one clerk, they could not have an inspector to watch the delivery in all the smaller stations.

Mr. ALLISON said that in visiting the Red Cloud agency he could not see that there was a scintilla of progress toward civilization. He thought more force should be thrown into the educational work. He saw hundreds of children shooting at five-cent pieces with their little bows and arrows, that were as bright as any children, and as susceptible of education and civilization. He did not think it of much service to have a school of 10 or 12 in a whole tribe of Indians like the Sioux, where there are a thousand children; fifty years from now we shall be still feeding the Sioux at that rate of progress in civilization. What is wanted is more attention to schools, and not such homeopathic doses of education.

Mr. BARSTOW said the board had made the suggestion that no more blankets should be issued to the Indians. If they would not wear ordinary clothes, let them be pinched with the cold till they submit.

Mr. RHOADES spoke of the schools of the Indian Territory, where 700 children are on the rolls; where the land is cultivated and large crops raised.

After a few parting words from the chairman, the conference, at 10.30, adjourned *sine die*.

REPORT OF N. K. BARNUM, CLERK OF THE PURCHASING COMMITTEE.

SPOTTED TAIL AGENCY,
January 1, 1876.

E. H. HAYT, Esq., *Chairman Purchasing Committee, Board of Indian Commission:*

SIR: I have the honor respectfully to report that the invoices of annuities for this agency call for four hundred and sixty packages of dry goods, soap, hardware, baking-powder, and tobacco, and that the Department store-keeper at Cheyenne receipted to the railroad for 465, five more than appears on the invoices. He delivered 460 to cattle-trains, taking the proper bills lading for the same, and 460 verify as received at this agency.

Being present the latter part of November last, and the whole shipment being then in the warehouse at this place, I counted the whole of them, and also checked off all the goods with the invoices in my possession, and found them to agree.

They presented every appearance of being the original packages in which the goods were shipped, and none showed any evidence of having been opened or trifled with. All were in excellent order excepting a few bales that were slightly damaged, and with regard to which I will report under a proper head.

All the goods that the invoices call for have been received; there is nothing over and nothing short. If the invoices can be produced for five packages of any sort of merchandise whatever, then Bostwick is that much short; if not, then it is a clerical error on the part of the railroad.

Still there is the fact that Mr. Bostwick gave his receipt for 465 packages.

The annuities were issued to the Indians on the 24th of November, and to the half-breeds on the 25th, and on the 26th to the whites claiming treaty-rights, and those having Indian families. The distribution was exact and impartial, and the annuities were received with general satisfaction at each of these issues. I was present from the beginning to the end.

As I could not make a detailed report on the annuities issued at the Red Cloud agency, for reasons stated, it may be proper to remark that all of the goods I have seen are of the same general good quality.

Sixty bales of the blankets for that agency, from Messrs. Ammidon & Co., were superior in weight and of a better grade than those given out at this place.

SUPPLIES.

Coffee.—Store-keeper Bostwick receipted to the railroad for four hundred and sixty sacks, and took bills lading from cattle-trains for four hundred and fifty-nine and a half sacks, weighing 60,387 pounds, 95 pounds less than the invoice calls for: four hundred fifty-nine and a half sacks verify as received at this agency, weighing 60,387 pounds. That remaining in the warehouse is in good order, and is packed in double sacks, the inside one bearing the trade-marks. It is sound, bright, and of excellent quality. A sample impartially drawn has been forwarded to your honorable board.

Sugar.—Store-keeper Bostwick receipted to the railroad for 515 barrels weighing 130,392 pounds, and delivered to cattle-trains, taking bills lading for 515 barrels, weighing 130,467 pounds, 75 pounds more than the invoice calls for. Three barrels were wet in transit from Cheyenne and reduced to melada. These were rejected and a claim made for the amount on the freight-contractor. The weight of these and the tare on the

barrels was deducted from the freight-charges. The sugar is of a good quality and much superior to any before furnished.

Tobacco.—The invoice calls for sixty boxes. I counted the number of packages in the warehouse last November, and found them all there; it is of a very good quality; it is sound and clean, and gives entire satisfaction to the Indians. As I remarked in the Red Cloud report, "there is a striking contrast between it and that previously furnished." In reference to that furnished previous to the present year, it was of such an inferior quality, that the Indians sought after it but very little, but usually bought what they needed from the traders. It all bears the marks, "Inspected: W. I. Hoodless."

Beans.—The invoice calls for 359 sacks. Mr. Edward D. McEvena, the clerk, (at that time,) avers that when he received them he counted them twice, and that there were 360 sacks received, and that he twice weighed them, and that they were 592 pounds short; the shortage has been properly reported to the Department. They are of a good quality, and packed in good substantial sacks, well secured, and properly inspected.

Flour.—I have examined the flour at all points where found, and find it to be of an even quality, viz, a good medium grade, and branded "Indian Department." Inspected: "R. I. E." It is packed in double sacks and well secured. I give you the weights of six draughts of 4 sacks each, weighed by myself, viz, one of 400 pounds, one of 396½ pounds, three of 397, and one of 398 pounds; the Army regulations allow a discount on the weight of 3 per cent, for waste. I purpose to weigh other lots as I have opportunity.

Beef-cattle.—I have seen quite a large number of the contractors' cattle and should say that about two-thirds of them are steers and one-third cows, and all of them are Texas cattle of large frames and heavy weights; they are fed on the ranges, and in no sense can be called fat cattle, such as are usually sent to the eastern market; but few of them are decidedly poor, and the most of them are fair, passable beef. I have given you the weight of two lots which I took; have taken the precaution to balance the scales, and have been careful and exact.

One mile from the agency is the corral for cattle, a substantial inclosure, with a shoot and the Fairbank's scales conveniently located for weighing the beef. On the side opposite the entrance and the scales, there is a well-arranged slaughter-house.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. K. BARNUM.

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